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Drawn by J. J. Goussier.

Engraved by J. P. D. D.

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EXCURSIONS
IN THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX:

COMPRISING A BRIEF
HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATION OF
EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE;
TOGETHER WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESIDENCES OF THE
NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
Remains of Antiquity,
AND EVERY OTHER INTERESTING OBJECT OF CURIOSITY.
FORMING A COMPLETE GUIDE
FOR THE
TRAVELLER AND TOURIST.
ILLUSTRATED WITH ONE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS, INCLUDING
A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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. *The Subscribers to the EXCURSIONS
THROUGH THE COUNTIES OF ESSEX, SUFFOLK,
AND NORFOLK, are requested not to bind up the
First Volumes until the completion of the Second;
as many of the Plates already given, properly
belong to the unpublished Letter-press, with which
Prefaces, Indexes, and Directions for placing the
Plates, will be given.*

PREFACE.

IN the completion of these Excursions through the county of Essex, the editor has to acknowledge the ample assistance received from "the resident gentlemen and others," and hence presumes, that whilst a proper degree of attention has been paid to those antiquities omitted in former works, where brevity on the one hand, or prolixity on the other, have been indulged to a fault, the more encouraging improvements connected with modern discoveries and superior science have received all the attention the nature of this publication would admit.

Preferring real utility to empty show, the Rumford districts of the county have lately determined, in a full meeting, that it is expedient to their interest to reap the local advantages of their situation so near the metropolis, and have, therefore, resolved upon the expediency of forming a canal from town in that direction, by the aid of which they may convey manure into the county upon terms sufficient to enable them in some cases to double their crops within the year. To extend a plan so judiciously formed, nothing more is necessary, after they have finished this line, than to carry it forwards to Malden, as an intermediate port between the metropolis and the North seas, from whence both coal and fish are brought to the London market. The advancement of our navi-

gable communication, however, is not the only object that has engaged the attention of an active and intelligent benevolence in this county. The Colchester and Essex infirmary, erecting on the road towards Lexden, though to be only of brick, and built in a plain and substantial manner, may nevertheless operate as an example to other counties of what may be produced when the public good has been cordially adopted as the principle of action.

London, May 1, 1819.

THE EDITOR

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER

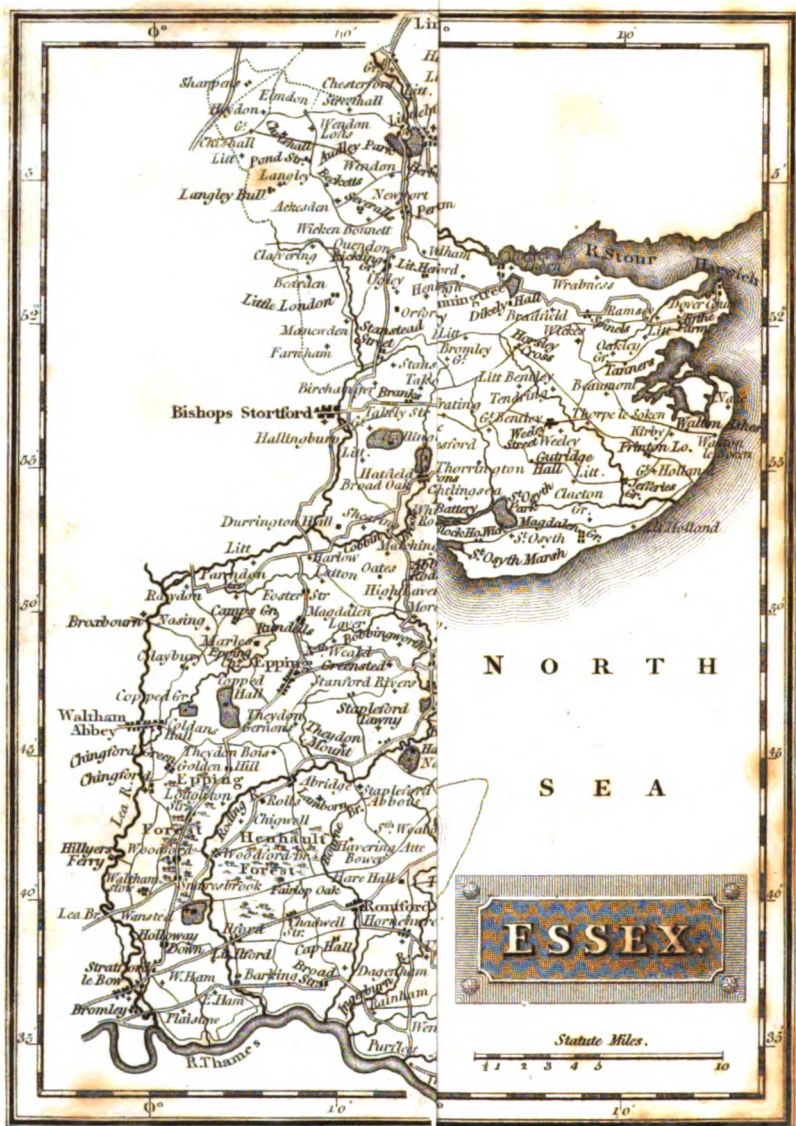
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14, 28, *for* justitia, *read* justitia.
14, 33, *for* parum, *read* parum.
55, 6, *for* Lord Grimstone, *read* the Earl of Verulam.
55, 32, *for* Edred, *read* Eldred.
190, 26, *for* Branston, *read* Bramstone.



St. Paul's Church, 14, Bury St. Edmunds

EXCURSIONS THROUGH ESSEX.

ESSEX, one of the maritime counties of England, is bounded on the east by the German ocean; on the west by the rivers Lea and Stort, with a part of Hertfordshire; on the north by the river Stour and part of Cambridgeshire; and on the south by the river Thames. The extent of this interesting county from east to west is about sixty miles; from north to south, fifty; its outline or boundaries about two hundred and twenty-six miles, containing nearly one million two hundred and forty thousand acres. The divisions of Essex are twofold, natural and artificial; the first consisting of continent and islands; the latter of hundreds, towns, parishes, and hamlets. The islands border partly upon the German ocean, and partly on the Thames. One peculiarity of this county is, that with Suffolk and Norfolk it forms the largest connected space of level ground in the whole island. Its surface, however, is not wholly flat, but has many gentle hills and dales; but a few prefatory observations from the outline of its history, may assist the observer in appreciating the many improvements of which, from time to time, it has been the theatre.

At the time of the Roman invasion, *Essex* and *Middlesex* were inhabited by the people called *Trinobantes*; an appellation connected with the situation of their country on the borders of the broad waters, principally formed by the Thames, at a time when its embankments were few, and ill constructed. The *Trinobantes*, as it appears from the testimony of ancient writers, possessed two considerable cities, or fortified stations;

"one of them was the eminence betwixt the Thames and the Fleetbrook, the centre of modern London, the other appears to have been at Colchester." Dissensions among the Trinobantes paved the way to the conquest of Britain by the Romans, and in this a prince of the name of *Mandubratius* was a striking example, he having sought the Romans in Gaul, and afterwards returned with them to assist in the subjugation of his native country.

When this island was subdivided by the Romans under Constantine the Great, Essex was included in that part called *FLAVIA CÆSARENSIS*. According to the itinerary of Antoninus, five principal stations seem to have been formed in this county; namely, *Duroli-tum*, *Cæsaromagus*, *Canonium*, *Camulodunum*, and *Ad Ansam*. These places were all seated on the road which formed the fifth *Iter*, or journey, from Londunum to Venta Icenorum: Camulodunum was doubtless the principal station in Essex; and though its site has been much contested by different writers, an attentive examination of the places assigned by the various disputants, connected with a knowledge of the antiquities discovered in the vicinity of each, will admit little if any dispute of Colchester being the real situation.

Essex formed a distinct and separate kingdom during a certain period of the Saxon Heptarchy, and was first called *East Seasa*. Turner, in his Anglo Saxon History, states that this and East Anglia were originally occupied by the Saxons nearly at the same time; and that Erkenwin was the first king of the former, commencing his reign in 527, and dying in 587.

It appears from the Domesday book, that ninety land owners of this county were deprived of their lands by William the Norman; during whose iron-handed reign the civil and ecclesiastical government of the whole kingdom underwent very considerable changes.

The Norman barons who tyrannized over Essex built castles on their estates for their own personal security, and to overawe their dependents. In the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, and in those of Charles the First, this county suffered much, particularly during the long siege of Colchester castle by the parliament's forces. Formerly there were twelve castles or fortified buildings in Essex; four of them denominated *royal castles*, being built for national security. These were Colchester, Hadleigh, Languard Fort, and Tilbury Fort. The other eight were *castellated mansions*, but formed for great strength and security: these were Candfield and Hedingham, belonging to the De Veres, Earls of Oxford; Clavering and Raleigh, belonging to Sueno of Essex, who possessed, besides these, fifty-three lordships in the county. Ongar belonged to Richard de Lacy. Pleshy was first in the possession of the Duke of Gloucester, High Constable of England. Stanstead Montfichet belonged to the Montfichets; and Walden, to Geoffry de Mandeville, at the time of the Domesday survey.

These very formidable fortresses, though once the pride of the nobles, and often the terror of the peasants, are mostly rased to the ground; the only parts remaining are their high keeps, and wide fosses. At Colchester, Hadleigh, Hedingham and Walden, some of their walls and other parts of the buildings remain.

In the early part of our history the whole or greater part of Essex is presumed to have been a forest. During the British and Roman governments many parts must have been cleared for stations, roads, and cultivation: yet in the time of King Stephen it appears that the principal portion of the county was either forest, or subject to forest laws. However, in his reign, a large tract in the north-east part of the county was dis-afforested and cultivated, and the remaining part, north of *Stane-street* (or the great Roman road

from Colchester into Hertfordshire) was dis-afforested by King John. Henry the Third in the twelfth year of his reign directed perambulations to be made in Waltham forest, in order to ascertain its extent and value; and about the same time had large tracts cleared for the plough. This plan was pursued by Edward the First in the twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth years of his reign, yet much forest land still remained; and Paul Viscount Bayning, with many other gentlemen of the county, purchased of the crown and dis-afforested several parts of it. Thus the boundaries of the forests being reduced, the inconveniencies experienced by the inhabitants when they were under arbitrary foresters and stewards were no longer felt. The forests of Epping and Hainault still retain the name, and support a number of deer. The office of chief forester for Essex was deemed highly honorary, and generally bestowed on some illustrious person. The stewardship was also an office of great consequence, and usually enjoyed by some of the nobility. It continued in the De Veres, Earls of Oxford, for many generations. The steward had power to substitute a lieutenant, one riding forester, and three yeomen foresters in the three bailiwicks of the forest. He had also many lucrative privileges, and was keeper of Havering-atte-Bower, and of the house and park.

Previous to the dissolution, Essex contained forty-seven religious houses; of these, two were mitred abbies, Waltham Holy Cross, and St. John's Colchester: six common abbies; Beleigh, Coggeshall, St. Osyth, Stratford-Langthorn, Tiltey, and Walden: twenty-two priories; Burden, Blackmore, St. Botolph, Bycknacre, Maldon, Chelmsford, Dunmow, Grey Friars Colchester, Earls Colne, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Peverell, Horkesley Little, Latton, Lees Little, Mersey West, Pantfield, Prittlewell, Stansgate, Takeley, Tiptree, Toby, and Thremhall: three nunneries; Barkington, Hedingham and Wickes: three colleges, Halstead,

Pleshy, and Layer Marney : two preceptories of templars, Cressing, and Maplestead Little : nine hospitals, Bocking, Brook Street, South Weald, Crouched Friars, Hedingham Castle, Hornchurch, Ilford Great, Newport, St. Giles's at Maldon, and St. Mary Magdalen at Colchester.

The principal rivers of this county are the Colne, the Blackwater or Pont, the Chelmer, the Crouch, the Ingerbourn, the Roding, and the Cam. The Thames, Lea, Stort, and Stour rivers, also contribute to the fertilization of this county.

Agriculture, which has much improved the face of the county, is the principal feature of it, the produce of which consists of live stock, chiefly calves, (for their goodness Essex has long been proverbial,) besides the finest wheat and all other kinds of grain and hops, coriander, caraway, saffron, teasle, &c. The gross population of this county consists of 111,356 males, 115,081 females ; total 226,437 persons. This county contains 24 market-towns, 20 hundreds, and 415 parishes, is included in the home circuit, and is in the diocese of London and province of Canterbury.

Manufactures prevailed formerly at Colchester, Coggeshall, Bocking, &c. but are at present much on the decline.

Having thus sketched the outline of this copious field of observation, taking our stand nearly in the centre of the county, we shall now proceed in our first excursion from Chelmsford to Harwich, and afterwards in such directions as to leave no part unexplored that may be worth the attention of the lover of the arts, and every inquisitive and judicious admirer of topographical researches ; the increasing attention to which is a most forcible illustration of the progress of the public taste from rudeness to refinement ; and decisively marks the present period as one of the most distinguished of our history.

EXCURSION I.

From Chelmsford through Springfield, Boreham, Hatfield-Peverel, Witham, Rivenhall End, Kelvedon, Gore Pits, Mark-ley, Copford, Stanway, Lexden, Colchester, Ardleigh, and Manningtree, to Harwich.

CHELMSFORD, which derives its name from its situation at the confluence of the rivers Chelmer and Cam, and its ancient ford over the Chelmer, is nearly in the centre of the county of Essex. It is rather surprising that Camden should have made this place the site of the ancient *Canonium*, upon no other authority than its distance from the supposed site of *Camulodunum* at Maldon. Mr. Gough could not perceive the least evidence in favour of Camden's opinion of the antiquity of Chelmsford. There was not a road near it till Henry the First's time, when Maurice, Bishop of London, built a bridge over the Chelmer, subsequent to the year 1100. To this bridge the town owes its first importance, as this was the occasion of diverting the great road, which before passed through Writtle, a village two miles to the west, since which period Chelmsford has increased both in houses and in the number of its inhabitants.

In the first year of King John, William de Sancta Maria, Bishop of London, procured the grant of a weekly market, and other privileges, afterwards confirmed by Edward the First.

In the year 1545, Bishop Bonner granted the town



From the ground by the bridge for the River and through the town

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.

As shown by the bridge and the river and the town

and manor of Chelmsford to Henry the Eighth. Queen Elizabeth, in July, 1563, bestowed them on Thomas Mildmay, esq.; and in a survey taken for this family in 1591, it is thus expressed, "Chelmsforde is one ancient goodly manor, scituate in the heart of the county, in good and wholesome air, conveniently and well housed, and well built for timber and tile. The chief manor house was in the time of Edward the Thirde brent, and wasted with fire; and, before it seemed to have been some ancient barony. Within this manor is situate the town of Chelmesforde, well situated with more than 300 habitations, divers of them seemly for gentlemen; many fair inns, and the residue of the same habitations for victuallers and artificers of city like buildings. This town is called the shire town, not only by the statute of eleventh of Henry the Seventh, for the custody of weights and measures, but so reputed and taken long time before by the keeping of all assizes and sessions of the peace." In the eleventh of Edward the Third, four members were sent from Chelmsford to a council held at Westminster.

Chelmsford, the county town, and the chief of the hundred, is principally laid out in four streets, having nearly in the centre, the Shire Hall, an elegant and commodious edifice, erected at the county's expense from designs, and under the immediate direction of J. Johnson, esq. architect, who having completed it at a charge much less than the estimate, was presented with a silver cup of an elegant form, in consequence of a vote passed at the quarter sessions in 1793. The front of this building is of white stone, with a rusticated basement, and ornamented with four three quarter columns, supporting a pediment. The upper part of the façade is further ornamented with three appropriate emblematical basso relievos. In the basement of this building is an open space for the corn exchange,

and apartments for the courts of assize, sessions, &c. Above is an elegant assembly or county room, extending the whole length of the building, which is furnished with a music gallery, two handsome chandeliers, and sculptured marble chimney-pieces. Behind this is a jury-room, and several other convenient apartments. Near the Shire Hall is a handsome conduit, erected by Mr. Wray, of Portland stone, of the Doric order, with a dome supported by six columns, with the following appropriate inscriptions, *benignus benignis*, bountiful to the bounteous; *nec parcus parcis*, liberal to the covetous; *nec diminutus largiendo*, not diminished by bestowing; *sic charitas a Deo fonte*, thus charity from the heavenly fountain. This water is conveyed from a spring about a quarter of a mile from the town. The conduit over which this is erected was very ancient; the present was built a few years ago; the expense defrayed by a subscription from the inhabitants, and gifts of 100*l.* each from the Sun and Royal Exchange fire-offices, and likewise by a legacy left by the late Mr. Greenwood.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a spacious and handsome building. The body is modern, and was erected from designs by Mr. Johnson, in place of the more ancient part, which fell to the ground with a most tremendous crash, in the night of the seventeenth of January, 1800. When the original church was built is uncertain; but from an inscription on the south side of the centre aisle, it appears to have been repaired by subscription in the year 1424; and before the reformation it contained four guilds or chantries. On the north side of the chancel is the burial place of the Mildmays. Benjamin, Earl Fitzwalter, and Frederica, his Countess, daughter to the gallant Duke of Schomberg, are among the number of that family that lie interred here. In rebuilding the body of this church the ancient character of its architecture has been pre-



Engraved by J. C. Harrison from a Drawing by J. C. Harrison for the Trustees of the Essex County Council.

**THE SHIRE HALL, CHELMSFORD.
ESSEX.**

Printed and Sold by Longman & Co. Stationers, &c.

served ; but the interior is elegantly ornamented in a modern style. A gallery at the west end contains a fine organ, erected by Hancock in 1772, since improved by Russel. The new church was opened for divine service in September 1803.

The free grammar school at Chelmsford was founded and liberally endowed in 1552, by Edward the Sixth, on the petition of Sir William Petre, knight ; Sir Walter Mildmay, knight, then one of the general supervisors of the Court of Augmentations ; Sir Henry Tyrrell, knight ; and Thomas Mildmay, esq. The governors were at that time constituted a body corporate. The common seal is of brass, and round the edge is this inscription, COE. SIGILL. GUB. POSS. REV. E. BONOR. LIB. SCHO. GRAM. REG. EDRI. VI. IN CHELMSFORD IN COM. ESSEX. In 1782 the school-house was rebuilt by R. Benyon, Esq. then acting governor, on the site of a more ancient one, erected by Sir John Tyrrell, Bart. The education of youth in this town is further provided for by two charity schools ; one for fifty boys, the other for twenty girls. The school-house stands at the north-east corner of the church-yard, and adjoining it are three almshouses for decayed families.

The bridge that Bishop Maurice erected over the Chelmer, being much decayed, was rebuilt, with one arch, in 1787, from a design by Mr. Johnson ; and this unites the hamlet of Moulsham with Chelmsford. Near it, on the Moulsham side, stands the County Gaol and Bridewell. The county gaol is a spacious edifice of stone, began, in 1773, by an architect named Hylyard ; but afterwards much improved by Mr. Johnson. A commodious house, occupied by the gaoler, forms the front ; and westward from this a large paved yard extends, which is terminated by the hospital or ward for female criminals, and a very neat and commodious chapel. On the north side, next the river, is a double range of cells ; and beyond this another large yard,

secured by a wall and iron palisadoes, appropriated to the use of the convicts employed in picking oakum and making ropes. A large range of separate cells extends from the south side of the house for condemned criminals; behind which, on the opposite side of a paved yard, there are very convenient apartments for debtors. Every yard in this prison is provided with excellent spring water, which contributes as much to the health as to the cleanliness of the prisoners.

In Moulsham there are six alms-houses, appropriated for the relief of the same number of poor people, by Thomas Mildmay, esq. in the year 1565; the present dwellings were erected by William Mildmay, esq. in 1758. Within this hamlet, near the river, stood a Dominican Priory, the site of which still retains the appellation of the *Friars*. Camden, and some other antiquaries, have ascribed the foundation of this to Malcolm, King of Scotland; but this is evidently a mistake, as, according to Bishop Tanner's *Notitia*, the Malcolms were extinct long before the Dominicans obtained a footing in England. At the dissolution the revenues of this house were estimated at 9*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* In the thirty-fifth of Henry the Eighth, it was granted to Anthony Bonvixi, but has since become the property of the Mildmays. Thomas Langford, who compiled an Universal Chronicle from the creation to his own times, was a friar in this house.

The country surrounding Chelmsford is extremely pleasant and fertile: the soil consists chiefly of a deep rich loam. During the late war the country hereabout assumed a considerable degree of novelty: upon its surface two extensive ranges of barracks were formed, sufficient to accommodate about 4000 troops. The largest of these is at the west end of the town, and the other on the southern side: part of the barracks have since been taken down, those standing are near the Wedford gate; and at a small distance a line of em-

bankments began for defending the approach to the metropolis, consisting of star batteries and parapets. This was one among the numerous works carried on to defeat the purposes of a projected invasion.

Upon the banks of the Chelmer and Blackwater are numerous large corn-mills, belonging to the Messrs. Marriages, Stammers, Dunkin, Dixon, and others; these, from the great improvements in their machinery, materially contribute to supply the London market with flour. In consequence of the navigation of the Chelmer from Chelmsford to the Blackwater, the increase of trade to this town in coals, corn, &c. has increased beyond expectation. The market of Chelmsford is on Friday, and the population of the town has been returned at 4649 persons.

MOULSHAM, the manor of the *Mildmays*, was, prior to the Norman conquest, a parcel of the possessions of the abbey church of St. Peter's, Westminster; but at the dissolution it was sold by Henry the Eighth, on the 23d of July, 1540, to Thomas Mildmay, gent. one of the auditors of the Court of Augmentations. This gentleman rebuilt the manor-house, "so that it was then accounted the greatest esquire's building in the county of Essex." Since that period a large modern fabric was erected on its site by Benjamin, Earl Fitzwalter, from the designs, and under the direction of the celebrated Italian architect, Leoni. This building, called MOULSHAM-HALL, was of a quadrangular form, inclosing a court in the centre, and commanded a view of Danbury-hill from the grand front, which had an ornamental pediment displaying the family arms in basso relievo; and above the statues of Apollo, Diana, and Mercury. The interior was arranged with great judgment; but such is the mutability of human possessions, this mansion has been entirely taken down within the last ten years, the garden walls only being left standing.

The *Mildmays* trace their descent from Hugo Mildeme or Mildme, who lived about the year 1147. Walter Mildmay settled at Writtle, near Chelmsford, about the end of the reign of Henry the Seventh, and was father of the above Thomas, who had four sons, each of whom became the head of a respectable family. Sir Walter, the younger, the founder of Emmanuel College, was born at Moulsham, and became chancellor of the exchequer and privy counsellor to Queen Elizabeth, and died in the year 1589. Several other members of this family have held honourable situations under different sovereigns.

It should have been observed that the kitchen of the house of the Black, or Dominican Friars, at Moulsham, was curious on account of the roof, as it resembled that of the theatre at Oxford, but no remains of it have been seen for many years. Another of the antiquities in this neighbourhood was a chapel belonging to the abbey of St. Osyth, which formerly stood in a field called Long Stamps, between Moulsham Hall and Galleywood Common. Several stones with brasses upon them have been taken from this building. At the dissolution this chapel and the tythes, valued at 5*l.* per annum, were let to William Aylenoth.

We have before noticed the alms-houses at Moulsham: they have had some singular endowments. One of these, left by one of the Mildmay family, directs "the distribution of an ox, or bullock, among the poor people of this place on Christmas-eve; and 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to buy three barrels of white herrings, and four cades of red herrings, for distribution among the poor people of Moulsham and Chelmsford, the first and second week of clean Lent." These alms-houses, standing too near the road, were taken down, as we observed before, and rebuilt in 1758, at the expense of William Mildmay, esq.

The manor of Moulsham, called Mulsho in the an-

cient writings, has been described by Morant generally "as one ancient entire manor, lying together within itself in severalty, having belonging to it, in soils, demesnes, and wastes, more than 1300 acres of good sorts of country soil, both in clay and sand, with the rents, customs and services of more than 200 convenient tenancies; and of common *pour vicinage* more than 500 acres, called Galleywood Common, situated in the parishes of Much Badow, Stock, Ging-Margaret, and Chelmsford. The mansion of Sir Thomas Mildmay, knight, is seated in a very good, wholesome air, not moated, or compassed with waters, though with sufficient store of ponds and water-courses; and of woods it hath great store. Belonging to it is a dove-house of brick; a fair game of deer, imparked; a great warren; a goodly fishing-course, both in private ponds and common river; a very good water-mill, and great store of other like necessary provisions, &c." Such were the appendages to the substantial mansions of our forefathers.

Writtle, about two miles to the left of Moulsham, was formerly a market-town, but was divested of its trade by the rising importance of Chelmsford. Morant, and several other antiquaries, have placed the *Cæsarmagus*, or the Roman station of the itinerary, here. However, before a bridge was built at Chelmsford, the public road from Braintree, and several other places in the north and north-east parts of this county, to London, led through Writtle. The Swan, a very large and famous inn, anciently stood in this road, near the farm called Shakestons. The remains of the house or palace built here by King John, in 1211, are a quarter of a mile out of the green, on the left side of the road to Chelmsford. This house occupied about an acre of ground, surrounded by a deep moat: opposite is a farm called The Lordship. A remarkable custom in the manor of Writtle is denominated "*Leppe and Lasse*,"

viz. that every cart coming over a part of it called Greenbury, except it belong to a nobleman, must pay fourpence to the lord of the manor.

The church at Writtle is an ancient and spacious structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles; with an embattled tower at the west end. It is dedicated to All Saints, and appears to have been given, with its appurtenances, to the Monks of Bermondsey, in Surrey, by King Stephen. In the year 1203 it was granted to the English hospital of the Holy Ghost at Rome, by King John; but its possessions were afterwards seized by the crown, as belonging to an alien priory, and, in 1359, bestowed on the warden and fellows of New College, Oxford, through the interest of its founder, William of Wyckham, Bishop of Winchester: it is still a peculiar jurisdiction belonging to that college, and as such exempt from episcopal visitation. Among the monuments in this church is an elegant tomb to the memory of Sir John Comyns, knight, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who erected the large mansion called Hyghlands, near Chelmsford, lately occupied by Cornelius H. Kortright, esq., but now by P. C. Labouchere, esq. On the tomb is the bust of this able and upright judge in his baron's robes; and his character is engraven on an entablature of grey marble, concluding with the following extract from Horace:

———Cui pudor et Justitia soror
Incorrupts fides, nudaque veritas,
Quando ullum invenient parum.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the extensive lordship of Writtle, from which, at times, no fewer than nine manors have been separated, was held by Earl Harold, on whose defeat and death it fell into the hands of the Conqueror, who retained a very considerable part of it at the time of the Domesday survey.

In the reign of Henry the Third this manor was in the possession of Philip de Albene, and afterwards of William Longsword, Earl of Salisbury. From him it passed through various families to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and High Constable of England; after whose untimely death, in 1397, it was obtained by Thomas, Earl of Stafford, whose descendants continued in the possession till the decapitation of Edward, Earl of Stafford, in the year 1521, when all the family estates fell to the crown. In 1553 Queen Mary granted Writtle, with other manors, to Sir William Petre, knight, whose issue still enjoy it.

In this parish, about four miles north-east of the church, in the middle of a wood called Highwood Quarter, was, in the time of King Stephen, a hermitage, founded by one Robert, a monk, who obtained a grant of the land, and other requisites for the undertaking, of that monarch. After additional benefactions had been made to it by Henry the Second, it became in his reign attached to St. John's Abbey at Colchester; but soon after the dissolution its possessions were alienated to Sir William Petre, knight, in whose posterity they still remain.

About two miles south-east of Chelmsford is the village of Great Baddow, in a situation so pleasant that it has been chosen by many respectable families as their place of residence. The manor of Baddow, which became the property of the Earls of Gloucester in the reign of Henry the First, has since been vested in many noble families, and belongs to J. A. Houlton, esq. one of the members for the county. The church formerly possessed two chantries of some value.

The church of Little Baddow contains a rich monument to the memory of Sir Henry Mildmay, knt. of Graces, in this parish, who died in October, 1639. He is represented in armour reclining upon a pillow under a kind of dome, supported by pillars of black marble.

At the foot are two female figures kneeling : one represents an elderly lady arrayed in a hood and scarf ; the other a young one superbly dressed in the habit of the times. From a Latin inscription here on an oval tablet, it appears that Sir Henry had been a soldier in the Irish wars, and had received the honour of knighthood in the field. In the recesses in the south wall of the centre aisle are the carved figures of two females, said to have been sisters, and the founders of the church. A letter from the late Joseph Strutt, esq. author of *Regal and Ecclesiastical Antiquities*, mentions the following particulars respecting these figures : " At Little Baddow, we opened two graves in the walls of the church, over which lie the effigies of two women, who by their dress appear to have been buried there in the thirteenth century. We found three skeletons in one, and two in the other, without any appearance of wood, coffin, or linen, or any other covering for the corpse." Dr. Richard de Baddow who founded University Hall in Cambridge, on the site now occupied by Clare Hall, descended from a family, which derived its name either from Little or Great Baddow. General G. Strutt has lately erected a good house here, called *Tofts*.

SANDON, three miles south-east from Chelmsford, derives its name from its situation on a sandy eminence. This place was the residence of the learned Dr. Walton, editor of the *Polyglot Bible*. His first wife lies buried in the church here, and he has perpetuated her virtues in an epitaph, partly in English and partly in Latin.

Having described Chelmsford and its neighbouring villages, we commence our excursion by crossing the river Chelmer, which is now made navigable as far as Beleigh Mill, near Maldon, where, by means of a cut, the navigation leaves the Chelmer, and crosses into the river Blackwater ; down this river it proceeds about

three quarters of a mile to Heybridge, from whence another cut continues the navigation to Colliers Reach, a mile and a half below Maldon, where there is a branch to that town with a bason. The length of this canal is thirteen miles, five furlongs, in which about ten miles of the old channel is preserved; the rest is the new cut. The fall from Chelmsford is 79 feet.

SPRINGFIELD is a small village, pleasantly situated one mile north-east from Chelmsford. At the entrance of this place on the left is a newly erected building, a depot for arms. Norden calls this place *Campus Aquaticus*, from the number of springs rising in the neighbourhood. When the Domesday survey was made, nearly the whole parish was in possession of Ralph Peveril, and Robert Gernon. On the left of Springfield, is Springfield Place, the seat of Mrs. Brograve; and on the right, Springfield Lyons, the seat of Lady Waltham.

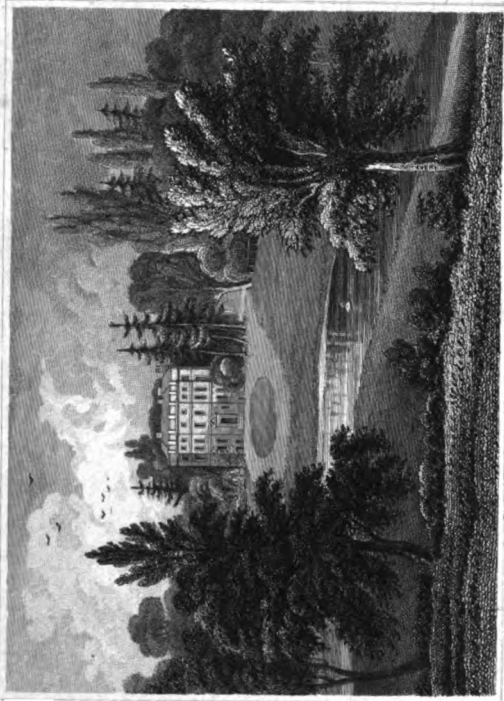
We have been informed by a respectable and reverend gentleman of this neighbourhood, that Dr. Goldsmith resided at a farm-house, nearly opposite the church at Springfield, and that here the *Deserted Village* was written. The idea seemed to have been suggested by the circumstance of several cottages being bought and pulled down by the principal proprietor in the village, for the purpose of adorning his own estate. There can be little doubt as to what gave rise to the beautiful poem. During the Doctor's residence at Springfield, he occasionally wrote a piece or two for his own amusement, independently of his engagements, of which perhaps the *Deserted Village* was one.

Half a mile beyond Springfield, on the left of the road, is Newhall.

This extensive lordship, in the parish of Boreham, was originally a part of the possessions of Waltham Abbey; but was exchanged in the twenty-fourth of Edward the Third for other manors in this

county with Sir John de Shardlowe, whose brother Sir Thomas again exchanged it with other estates for the manor of Bradeker in Norfolk. This family retained it till the tenth of Henry the Fifth, when it became the joint property of Sir John de Boreham and others; but soon afterwards fell to Richard Aldred, who held it of Margaret, Queen of Henry the Sixth. During the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, it fell to the crown, which granted it to Boteler, Earl of Ormond, a strenuous partisan of the Lancastrians, made prisoner at the battle of Towton and beheaded in the year 1460. This manor was afterwards bestowed on Thomas his younger brother, by Henry the Seventh, who granted him permission to fortify the manor-house with walls and towers.

The specious mansion called *NEW HALL*, of which a large portion is now standing, is supposed to have been built through the license granted by Henry the Seventh. It was afterwards adorned and improved by Henry the Eighth, who obtained the lordship in exchange from Thomas Bollyn (father of Queen Anne Bollyn,) Earl of Wiltshire, whose father had married the eldest daughter of Thomas, Earl of Ormond. Henry was so well pleased with the situation that he erected it into an *Honour*, and gave it the name of *Beaulieu*. Here, in 1524, he kept the feast of St. George; his daughter the Princess Mary also resided here several years. It was granted to Thomas Radcliff, Earl of Sussex, by Queen Elizabeth, in 1573; and was by his son sold to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. His son George being attainted by parliament, *New Hall* was afterwards purchased by Cromwell for the sum of five shillings. This was in 1651, when its annual value was computed at 1309*l.* 12*s.* and a fraction. *New Hall* was next purchased by three London merchants for 18,000*l.*; but after the restoration it became the property of General Monk, Duke of Albe-



Engraved by W. H. Stiles for the Trustees of the Writtle Lodge, Essex.

WITTLE LODGE,

The Seat of Adm. Fortescue.

ESSEX.

And Engraved by Longman & Co. Publishers, 15, Ave. Marie, New York.



Engraved by W. Wood from a sketch by L. L. L. from the perspective through the gate.

Remains of

NEW HALL.

now occupied as a Monastery.

ESSEX.

Not to be sold by any means, or to be used for any purpose.

marle. Christopher, his son and heir, married Elizabeth, grand-daughter to William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, who on her husband's death succeeded to this estate. In 1691 this lady was again married to Ralph, Duke of Montague, after which New Hall was deserted, and became ruinous. In 1786, the mansion of New Hall, with the gardens and park, were sold to John Olmius, Esq. who pulled down a very considerable portion of the building; but not before some valuable marbles and other materials had been removed by Mr. Hoare to a new and handsome mansion which he had erected on the Colchester road; Newhall afterwards came into the possession of Lord Waltham.

During the late French war, New Hall was purchased by some opulent catholics, and is occupied by English nuns driven from Liege by the republican armies. Here they superintend the education of about eighty catholic young ladies. The building in its most flourishing state was one of the largest in the kingdom, and consisted of two quadrangles inclosing large courts. The part now standing contains the great hall, which measures ninety-six feet in length, fifty wide, and forty high. This has been converted into a chapel, and laid out in a very judicious manner. On the east side are the arms of Henry the Eighth, finely wrought in freestone; the ground work is sculptured with delicate foliage, supported by a lion and a hawk; the whole is inclosed in a frame of stone, the outside of which is embellished with military instruments and trophies. The interior contains this inscription, in an ancient character:

*Henricus Rex Octavus, rex inclit' armis
Magnanimus struxit hoc opus egregium.*

Over the porch at the entrance are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, with these inscriptions in the Italian language.

Viva Elizabetha

*En terra a piu savia Regina, en cielo la piu lucente stella,
Virgine magnanima dotta divina leggiadra honesta et bella.*

The splendid chapel belonging to this mansion, which was taken down about seventy years ago, contained the magnificent painted window now in St. Margaret's church, Westminster.

BOREHAM is a pleasant village four miles north-east from Chelmsford, supposed to have been a market-town in the Saxon times. The manor is now divided among various families. Beneath a part of the church called the Sussex chapel, a number of persons of the family of Sir Thomas Radcliff, afterwards Earl of Sussex, are buried; and in this chapel are the mutilated remains of a splendid monument, erected by Earl Thomas to perpetuate his own and the memory of his noble relatives at a great expense. The recumbent figures in armour on the top are those of Robert Radcliff, first Earl of Sussex of that family, who died in 1542; Henry his son, and Thomas his grandson, who died between that period and 1583. Three long Latin inscriptions upon tablets of black marble record the titles and the character of these noble personages. The leaden coffins in which the bodies are inhumed are now bricked up at one end of the vault; several of them are cast in the human form, and inscribed with the name, &c. of the person inclosed within. The church-yard contains a neat mausoleum of stone and white brick for the Waltham family, with this inscription on the front.

*Mausoleum
Gentis Walthamianæ,
MDCCLXIV.*

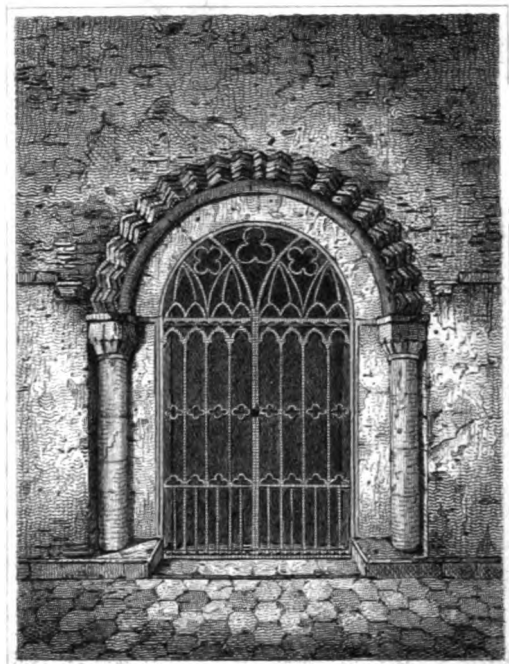
On the right of this place is Boreham House, the seat of Sir John Tyrrell, bart. This house was built



Drawn & Engraved by J. Long for the Engravings through Essex.

BORNEHAM HOUSE.
The Seat of Sir John Tyrrell Bart.
ESSEX.

Pubd Nov. 1834 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Drawn & Engraved by J. G. G. for the Antiquarian Society of Essex.

West Entrance to
HATFIELD PEVERELL CHURCH.
ESSEX.

Pub. 4 Mar. 1848 by J. G. G. & J. G. G. & J. G. G.

by Benjamin Hoare, esq. He was succeeded by his son, Richard Hoare, esq. who, dying, left one son and two daughters. The son dying, the house and estate appendant to it were sold to the Rev. William Walford, who sold the house with a portion of the estate to Sir John Tyrrell, bart. To this house, pleasantly situated in a good park, there are two fine avenues of trees, and a handsome piece of water in the front. This edifice, constructed of white brick, consists of a centre and two wings, and though not large, makes an elegant appearance. Near the church is another handsome house, the residence of R. C. Haselfoot, esq.

About two miles beyond Boreham, we come to Hatfield.

HATFIELD PEVERELL, with thirty-four other lordships in this county, was given by William the Conqueror to Ranulph Peveril, a Norman soldier who attended him to England, and afterwards married Ingelrica, the daughter of a Saxon nobleman, a beautiful woman who had borne a son to the Conqueror. In the time of William Rufus, this Ingelrica founded a college here for secular canons, and for the purpose of shewing her penitence, dedicated it to St. Mary Magdalen. William Peveril, her legitimate son, converted the college into a monastery for Benedictines, and greatly increased the endowments, besides giving his own residence as a habitation for the monks. This religious foundation, after the dissolution, was granted with other demesnes to Giles Leigh, esq. by the marriage of whose two daughters and coheiresses with the Alleyns, it passed into that family, whose descendants retained the manor till about the year 1768, when it was sold under an order of chancery to John Wright, esq. This gentleman pulled down the mansion which adjoined the church, and erected an elegant house on an eminence at a little distance, now the residence of his grandson, Peter Wright, esq. This building is

called the Priory; but there remains of the original foundation little excepting the church, now made parochial. An ancient statue in one of the windows is mentioned by Weever, as that of the foundress Ingelrica. Several inscriptions to the memory of the Alleyns are preserved in the chancel. John Wright, esq. besides rebuilding the house, considerably improved the church, and put in a new window of beautiful old painted glass.

On the right of Hatfield Peverell is Crix, the pleasant residence of Samuel Shaen, esq. and a little beyond it that of the Rev. William Walford, a handsome building, which forms a pleasing object from every point whence it can be seen. In this village is Toppingoe Hall, now a farm, the property of Colonel Strutt, remarkable for the beauty of several cedar-trees.

The village of Terling has been justly described as pleasant in its situation, and rich in its soil.

Between Hatfield Peverell and Terling is *Terling Place*. The house, situated in a finely wooded park, is extremely well built, and has been considerably improved and beautified by the present possessor, especially in the interior. The Colonel, who married Lady Charlotte, aunt to the present Duke of Leinster, possesses the greatest part of Terling, and has estates at Little Baddow, which were purchased by the late John Strutt, esq. of the Barrington family. The Colonel is one of the members for the borough of Maldon.

Terling was once appendant to Ely cathedral, but separated from that see by William the Conqueror, who gave it to his favourite, Ranulph Peveril. In 1269 it was held, under the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex, by the Bishop of Norwich, who had a palace and park here, besides a chapel which possessed the privilege of a sanctuary, and afforded shelter to the celebrated Hubert de Burgh, from the indignation of Henry the Third. Henry the Eighth

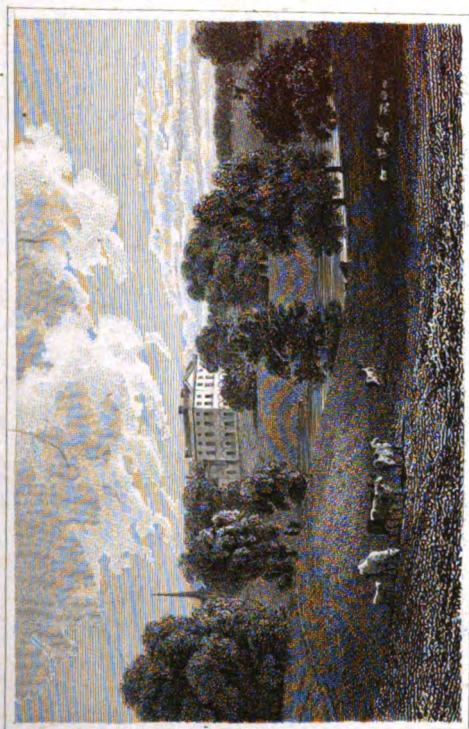


Engraved by W. H. Sturt for the Landowner through the Estate

**REMAINS OF
TOPPINGOE HALL,
The Property of Wm. Smith of Tooting Place**

ESSEX.

Printed and Sold by W. H. Sturt, 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.



Engraved by J. H. W. Smith, from a Drawing by J. G. G. for the American People's Press

PERLIN PLACE,
The Seat of Col. Smith M.
ESSEX.

See also, which by J. G. G. & Co. Boston, Mass.

had also a residence here, from whence several acts of this monarch are dated, particularly the patent creating Sir Edward Seymour Viscount Beauchamp, in 1536; in which year he gave this manor to Lord Chancellor Audley. From him it passed through various families to the Stratts. The house was built by the late John Strutt, esq.

Proceeding on our route is Witham Lodge, the seat of Wm. W. Luard, esq. and about half a mile further is the clean and pleasing town of WITHAM, generally believed to have been built, or at least restored, by Edward the Elder, the son of King Alfred. This prince most probably built that part of the town situated on Chipping Hill, round the church, which stands about half a mile north-west from the other part of the town. Here are considerable remains of a circular camp, defended by a double vallum, almost levelled within on the south side, but very plain on the south-west, where the road from hence to Braintree runs along the outer bank; the river defending it on the west side, there the works are lower; and a road runs through it from north to south. From this camp, and the considerable quantity of Roman bricks worked up in the body and tower of the church, Mr. Gough seemed inclined to consider Witham as the *Cæstrum* of Antoninus; an opinion confirmed in some degree by Morant, from two Roman coins of the Emperors Valens and Gratian having been found in levelling the fortifications, and a coin of Severus, now in the possession of Mr. Patisson.

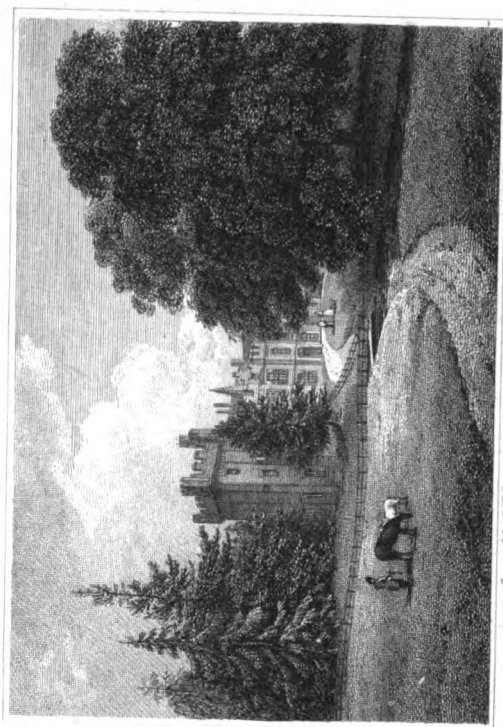
Witham was once in the possession of Earl Harold; but afterwards fell to Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, who married Goda, sister to Edward the Confessor. King Stephen bestowed it on the Knights Templars; from whom it passed to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who retained it till

the dissolution. In the time of Earl Eustace, it was called the *Honour of Bonanda*; and was one of the four ancient Honours of the kingdom. Richard the First, it is said, granted Witham a market. In the reign of Henry the Third, one Geoffrey de Lyston held land in Witham by the service of carrying flour to make wafers on the king's birth-day, whenever his majesty was in the kingdom.

The church contains a large tomb, erected in Queen Elizabeth's reign to the memory of Judge Southcote and his lady, whose effigies are upon it. The chief trade of this town, which contains about 400 houses, arises from passengers and travellers. At the east end of Witham is a handsome mansion, which formerly belonged to the Earl of Abercorn, but now the seat of Mrs. Du Cane. Here her present Majesty was lodged by the earl on her arrival in this country from Mecklenburgh.

Witham, the principal town of the hundred, was much improved some years ago by Mr. Pattisson, whose descendant and great nephew, W. H. Pattisson, esq. born here, has a handsome house in the centre of the town. Here is a chalybeate spring; from which considerable expectations were formed by the inhabitants that Witham would become a residence for numerous invalids. These expectations, however, suddenly evaporated, and the spring is at present totally neglected. Lord Stourton had formerly a seat at Chipping Hill, called Witham Place; it is now occupied as a classical school by the Rev. James Dunn.

A singular custom exists in the manor of Newlands, in this parish, which requires every person inheriting or purchasing estates within the manor, although freehold, to pay the amount of a year's value, as an ingress fine, unless such person was born within the manor, or a proprietor of estates within its jurisdiction.



Engraved by T. Higham, from a Drawing by J. Gandy, for the Transactions, Wrought Estate.

FAULKNER HALL,
The Seat of L^d. Bullock Esq.
ESSEX.

Published by Longman & Co. Stationers, 100, Strand.

The market at Witham is held on Tuesday, and the population of the town is, according to the late return, 2352 persons.

Having passed through Witham, on the left, at Chipping Hill, is the residence of the Rev. Andrew Downes, the vicar.

Faulkbourne Hall, between one and two miles north-west from Witham church, is the seat of J. J. C. Bullock, esq. whose family has possessed it ever since 1637, when it was purchased of the Fortescues, by Sir Edward Bullock, of Lofts, in this county. The mansion is a stately and spacious building of different eras. A tower gateway of curious architecture is supposed to have been erected by the Earl of Gloucester about King Stephen's time. Various improvements have been made in the house and grounds by the late Colonel Bullock. Several of the apartments contain good paintings by Vandyck, Vandewelde, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir William Beechey, and other esteemed masters. Here is likewise a variety of excellent specimens in natural history, and a respectable library. In the grounds, which are very extensive, several springs arise; and here is also a cedar-tree, supposed to be the largest in the kingdom, its girth at six inches from the ground being eighteen feet nine inches; its height to the first branch is nineteen feet and a half. A Roman villa is supposed to have stood at Faulkbourne, from a silver coin of Domitian, mentioned by Bishop Gibson to have been found under an old wall, partly composed of Roman bricks. The manor was given by William the Conqueror to his nephew, Hamo Dapifer, whose niece and coheiress, Mabil, was married to Robert, Earl of Gloucester, natural son to Henry the First. From him it passed through various families to the Fortescues, the sixth of whom was Sir John, Lord Chancellor of England in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

Leaving the direct route from Witham, there is a

road leading to Maldon; and on the way is the village of *Wickham Bishops*, so called from the Bishops of London, to whose see it has belonged from time immemorial. Their park here was enclosed in 1375, by Bishop Courteney, who obtained a license for it from Edward the Third. Here is the residence of John Luard, esq. and a handsome rectory-house, commanding fine views, the dwelling of the Rev. Thomas Leigh. The ancient manor-house has been pulled down many years; the church is nearly a mile west from the village.

Langford, a modern white house, standing in a finely wooded park, is the seat of Mrs. Wescomb, whose family obtained it in the year 1680, by purchase from the nephew of the celebrated physician, Dr. William Harvey.

The village of Langford derived its name from the *Long Ford* here in the Saxon times, when the waters of the Blackwater spread over a much wider surface than at present. The meadow grounds bordering the river in this neighbourhood are extremely fertile.

The Borough, or rather the *Barrow Hills*, on the north side of Blackwater Bay, were considerable in number. These tumuli are supposed to have been raised indiscriminately over the bodies of the Danes and Saxons that fell in the battles occasioned by the frequent landing of the former on this part of the coast. The lands on which the Barrow Hills stood have been completely enclosed from the sea by Mr. Lawrence, in 1807, and the whole are now levelled, one excepted.

Heybridge is a village opposite Maldon on the northern side of the Blackwater, and is supposed to have derived its name from an ancient bridge of five arches, beneath which the main stream is said to have formerly run, though now it flows at some distance through Full-bridge. Its original name appears to have been *Tidwaldstune*, as by this name, this

and twelve other lordships were given by King Athelstan to the cathedral of St. Paul; and it still belongs to the dean and chapter, together with the ancient manor-house called Heybridge Hall.

Heybridge Bridge was erected by Henry the Sixth. The first charter to the town is dated at Pembroke, on the 7th of October, and is not, as it has been asserted, of Henry the Second, but of Henry the Third; for it refers to a former Henry, and calls him "our grandfather." Henry the Second was the grandson of the Conqueror, and grandfather of Henry the Third. The charter is endorsed as that of Henry the Second, but it is a mistake.

Heybridge, in consequence of the Chelmer navigation passing through it, is much improved, and has a great addition of trade, and of houses.

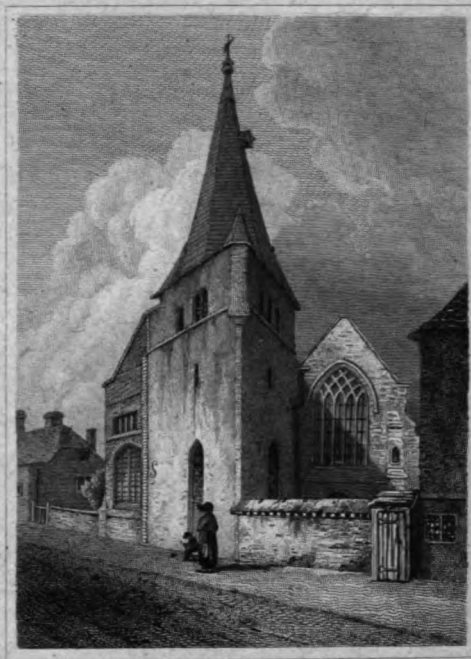
Between Heybridge and Maldon is a raised causeway, which was made before the time of Edward the Second, who ordered it to be surveyed in the year 1324.

MALDON. This is an ancient and populous borough and market-town, and the principal of the Dengy hundred: it is situated on the acclivity of an eminence south-west of the Blackwater. This town has been frequently pointed out as the Roman *Camulodunum*; but upon very slight grounds, as the earliest mention of Maldon by historians is in the year 913, when Edward the Elder encamped here to oppose the incursions of the Danes, whilst a fortification was constructing at Witham. In the year 920, he again encamped at Maldon, and according to Marianus built a castle here; but as no traces of this structure have been found, it seems probable that Marianus alludes to the entrenchment or fort before mentioned, which lies on the west side of the town, and apparently enclosed about twenty-four acres. Being of an oblong figure, three sides of the rampart have lately been traced, the other is defaced by buildings. This place was of con-

siderable strength, as, in 921, a large Danish force besieged it without effect. In 993, it was again attacked by the Danes under Ulaff, when the forces of the Earl Byrhtroth coming to its relief, they were defeated, and the Earl himself slain. In the Domesday survey, Maldon is styled a half hundred; and had then 180 houses, and a hall, held by the burgesses of the king, who had also a house here.

The first charter constituting Maldon a borough appears to have been granted by Henry the Third, at the request of William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex. By this grant, Maldon was exempted from all foreign service, except the finding one ship occasionally for the king's use, for forty days, at their own expense. By another charter granted by Queen Mary, in 1554, the borough was incorporated, and its government vested in two bailiffs, to be chosen annually; six aldermen, eighteen capital burgesses, &c. The right of returning members to parliament here is in those who obtain freedom by birth, marriage, servitude, or otherwise. The first return was made in 1295; and the custom of *borough English*, by which the youngest son succeeds, according to the burgage tenure to estates, on the death of his father, still prevails here. The charter was lost in 1768, and re-granted in 1810. The town is now governed by a mayor, aldermen, &c.

Maldon at present consists of one principal street, running nearly a mile east and west; a cross street of considerable length, and several smaller avenues and back lanes. The descent from the upper part to the river is very steep; and many of the houses built within the last half century are good. The import trade is considerable, consisting of coal, iron, deal, corn, &c. At spring tides the river will bring up vessels that draw eight feet water; but the coals are brought to the town in lighters. Maldon had formerly three parishes, but the vicarages of two of them have been long con-



Engraved by H. Roberts from a Sketch by J. Oring for the New Series of English Views.

MALDON CHURCH.

ESSEX.

Pubd. Jan. 1. 1819. by Longman & Co. Stationers, &c.

solidated. The church of All Saints, which is the principal, is an ancient and spacious building, with an equilateral triangle tower, which is almost unique, terminated by an hexagon spire. In the south, or D'Arcy's aisle, three chantries were founded in the reign of Henry the Sixth, by Robert D'Arcy, esq. of Danbury. On a stone of white marble in the chancel is a Latin epitaph which has been thus translated :—The deposit of John Vernon, gent., Turkey merchant, who hath often crossed the seas, tempted thereto not so much by the love of gain, as an ardent desire of beholding the wonderful works of God in the deep. He boasts of this sepulchral stone as not the least reward of his labours, it being discovered among the ruins of Smyrna : he also brought to light some choice ancient manuscripts, monuments of that antique city ; with these he enriched his native country. He is now safely arrived at the haven of rest. He died January 28th, 1653, aged 84.

The town-hall, a large ancient brick building, near this church, was built in the reign of Henry V. by Robert D'Arcy, esq.

St. Mary's church, in the lower part of the town, is a spacious pile, and said to have been founded by Ingelric, a Saxon earl. The tower is a massy structure, and, with part of the church, was rebuilt in the reign of Charles the First. St. Peter's, the parish united to All Saints, had formerly a church, of which the tower only remains. Adjoining to this is the grammar-school and library, erected by Dr. Thomas Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester. This gentleman was born at Maldon in 1630, and in the latter part of his life became a great benefactor to his native town ; and appropriated the rent of a farm at Iltney, in the parish of Mundon, to keep the school and library in repair. He also gave 200*l.* to build a workhouse for the poor, and about 1000*l.* more to establish the trade of weaving

sack-cloth to employ them. Through a bequest of 1902*l*. left by him for that purpose, the Plumian professorship of astronomy and experimental philosophy was founded at Cambridge. This truly benevolent clergyman died in the year 1704. The population of Maldon is 2679, and the market is held on Saturday.

Beleigh Abbey is nearly one mile west from Maldon, and was founded in 1180, by Robert Mantel, for monks of the premonstratensian order. At the dissolution nine canons were maintained on this foundation, and Speed says their revenues amounted to 196*l*. 6*s*.; but Dugdale says it was only 157*l*. 16*s*. 11½*d*. Among the remains of this monastic building, the chapel is the most perfect; but being connected with a farmhouse, has been used as a hog-sty. This was a handsome though small apartment, being only thirty-six feet in length, and its breadth eighteen. The roof is formed with very fine grained lime-stone, and has groined arches, supported by three slender Purbeck columns. This was the burial place of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, who died April the fourth, 1483; together with Isabel his lady, and the Lady Mary Nevill, of Essex.

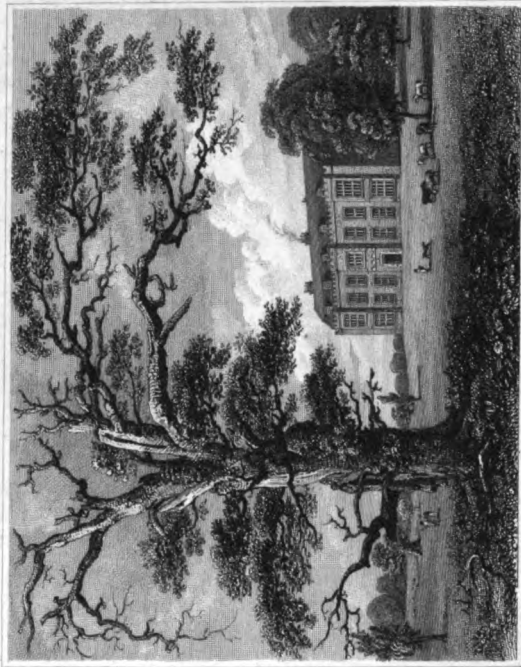
Proceeding from Maldon, the one on the right, the other on the left of the road, are the two Woodhams; the two parishes of this name stand in the north-west corner of this hundred, between Maldon and the hundred of Chelmsford, in which last hundred is Woodham-Ferrers, so near these as to have once been part of the same district. The name is derived from Wood, and Ham, implying a village in a wood. These two Woodhams are distinguished by the additions of Walter and Mortimer, the names of two noble families to which they anciently belonged. Woodham Walter was in the possession of Levenu, in Edward the Confessor's time. Here is but one manor, the mansion-house of which was once the seat of the noble family of Fitz



Engraving by J. Long, from a Drawing by J. Allen, in the Possession of John Dando Esq. of Wilton, for the Excavation through Essex.

Remains of
BELIEGH ABBEY.
ESSEX.

Pubd. Jan. 1. 1810 by Longman & Thompson New.



Designed by T. Haydon, from a Drawing by J. G. Smith, for the Excavations through Essex.

**DANBY PLACE,
The Property of Daniel Fyfe, Esq.
ESSEX.**

And the Property of the Fyfe Family, & the Fyfe Family, &c.

Walter, and stood about half a mile from the church. The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and being very ruinous, and standing at a great distance from the village, made it very inconvenient to the parishioners. Thomas, Earl of Essex, having obtained a license from Queen Elizabeth in 1562, built a new church, which was consecrated in 1564. Woodham Mortimer, or Little Woodham, lies south-west of the last. The manor-house at Woodham, called Mortimer Place, the residence of C. C. Parker, esq. stood about a mile south-west from the church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret.

Danbury, four miles and a half east-south-east from Chelmsford, is a small village, deriving its name from Danesbury, the town or castle of the Danes. It is pleasantly situated on the summit of a hill, within the area of an ancient encampment, about 680 yards in circumference. Danbury Hill, being considered one of the highest eminences in Essex, commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. The glacia on the south side is still nearly thirty feet deep, and the lines may be traced to a considerable distance on the other side. Danbury, in the time of Edward the Confessor, was held by Arling, a Saxon; but when Domesday Book was compiled, it was the property of Geffery de Mandeville; it afterwards fell principally to the family of De Sancto Claro, or St. Clere, who retained it till the reign of Edward the First, when William de St. Clere was sheriff of Essex, and had a park at Danbury. The estate held by this family is still called St. Clere's manor. The manor then passed to the Veres, Earls of Oxford, and to the Greys of Wilton (from whom, for a few years, it went to Sir Gerard Braybrook, who married one of the daughters of Lord Reginald de Grey), and to the Lords D'Arcies; afterwards reverting to the crown, it was, by Edward the Sixth, granted to William Parr, Marquis of Northampton, who alienated it to Sir Walter Mildmay, knight, by whom the

manor-house, called Danbury Place, was erected, at about half a mile from the church. The situation of this edifice, on the summit of a hill, has often exposed it to storms and lightning, particularly in May, 1402, when the body and part of the chancel were destroyed. In February, 1749-50, the spire was set on fire by lightning, and consumed twenty feet downwards. The east end of the north aisle is inclosed by a partition, within which, under arches formed in the wall, are the effigies of two cross-legged knights, curiously carved in wood, and in good preservation. A similar effigy was formerly placed beneath a like arch in the south aisle; but when this part was rebuilt, in 1776, the figure was removed into the north aisle, where it remains. It has been doubted whether these figures were intended to represent the St. Cleres or the D'Arcies; but as the arches under which they lie are apparently coeval with the church, it is most probable that they belong to the former, whose arms appear emblazoned in several small compartments of the antique wainscot ceiling of the chancel. The feet of each of the figures are supported by a lion; but each lion, as well as the knight, is in a different position. One of the knights is in a praying attitude, with his sword sheathed; another is in the act of drawing his sword, and the third is returning his to the scabbard.

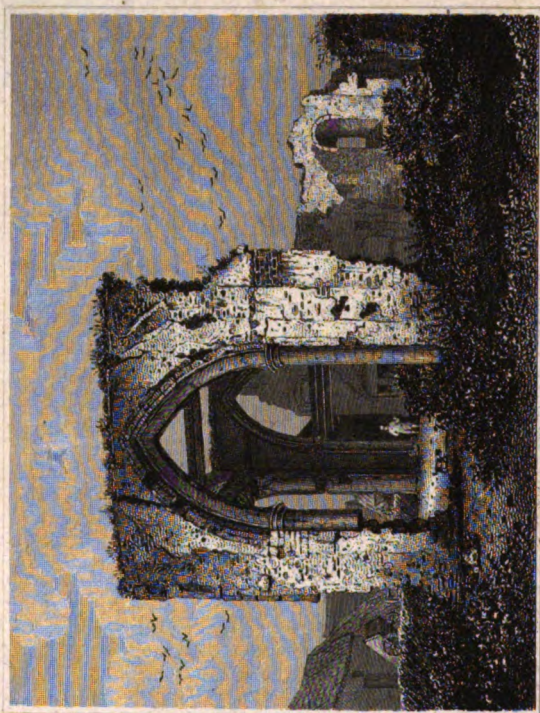
In October, 1779, as some workmen were digging a grave just beneath one of the arches in the north wall of this church, they discovered a leaden coffin about thirty inches from the surface of the pavement; this being opened shortly after by the influence of Mr. T. White, who supposed it might contain the body of the knight templar represented by the effigy in the arch above, the following particulars were published. "On raising the leaden coffin there was discovered an elm coffin inclosed, about one-fourth of an inch thick, very firm and entire. On removing the lid of this coffin, it was found to enclose a shell about three

quarters of an inch in substance, which was covered with a thick cement, of a dark olive colour, and of a resinous nature. The lid of this shell being carefully taken off, we were presented with a view of the body, lying in a liquor or pickle somewhat resembling mushroom catsup, but paler, and of a thicker consistence; the taste was aromatic, though not very pungent, partaking of the flavour of catsup, and of the pickle of Spanish olives. The body was tolerably perfect, no part being decayed but the throat, and part of one arm: the flesh every where, except on the face and throat, appeared exceedingly white and firm. The face and throat were of a dark colour, approaching to black; the throat was much lacerated. The body was covered with a kind of shirt of linen, not unlike Irish cloth, of superior fineness; a narrow, rude, antique lace was affixed to the bosom of the shirt; the stitches were very evident, and attached very strongly. The linen adhered rather closely to the body; but on raising it from the breast to examine the state of the skin more minutely, a considerable piece was torn off, with part of the lace on it. The coffin not being half full of the pickle, the face, breast, and belly, were of course not covered with it. The inside of the body seemed to be filled with some substance which rendered it very hard. There was no hair on the head, nor do I remember any in the liquor; though feathers, flowers and herbs in abundance were floating, the leaves and stalks of which appeared quite perfect, though discoloured. The coffin was not placed in a position exactly horizontal; the feet being at least three inches lower than the head. The pillow which had supported the head had decayed, and the head fell back, lacerating the throat and neck, which with the face, appeared to have been discoloured from the decay of the cloth, or substance which covered them. The jaws, when the

coffin was first opened, were closed, but on being somewhat rudely touched, expanded, owing, as was supposed, to the breaking of some bandage that bound them together. When the jaws were opened, they exhibited a set of teeth, perfectly white; which was likewise the colour of the palate, and all the inside of the mouth. The limbs were of excellent symmetry; the general appearance of the whole body conveyed the idea of hearty youth, not in the least emaciated by sickness. The length of the corpse very little exceeded five feet; though the shell that enclosed it was five feet six inches within. When the parishioners and others had satisfied their curiosity, the shell and the wooden coffin were fastened down; the leaden coffin was again soldered, and the whole left, as nearly as circumstances would admit, *in statu quo*."

In a letter published by Mr. Strutt, in 1789, he expressed himself convinced that the mode of burying in pickle was not so old as the time of the Knights Templars. "This body," he says, "was nothing less than one of these old warriors; it lay at some distance from the wall, and was covered with a large flat stone, on which was a *cross fleury*; and formerly an inscription on brass, not unlikely the following, mentioned by Weever: *Hic jacet Geraldus quondam filius et Heres Gerardi Braybrooke Militis qui obiit XXIX Marci, MCCCCXXII*." And this body, as the inscription indicates, was probably that of the son and heir of the above knight, buried in this expensive manner.

Returning towards Maldon, on the west side of the road leading from Danbury to Woodham Ferris or Ferres, we come to the ruins of *Byknacre Priory*, founded for Black Canons, by Maurice Fitz Gessery, Sheriff of Essex, in the reign of Henry II. who considerably increased the endowments, and granted to these canons the site of a hermitage, which previously



Engraved by J. Smith from a Sketch by J. P. P. for the Trustees of the Essex Antiquarian Society.

Remains of
BYCKNACRE PRIORY.
ESSEX.

And Illustrated by J. P. P. for the Trustees of the Essex Antiquarian Society.

stood here. In Henry VII.'s reign the revenues of this house had suffered so much by neglect, that it was nearly abandoned; and on the petition of the prior and monks of Elsing-Spittle, in London, it was granted by the king to that hospital. After the dissolution, the manor of Byknacre, with the site of the priory, was given to Henry Polsted, who in 1548 sold it to Sir Walter Mildmay; of whose grandsons it was purchased by George Barrington, esq.

Pursuing our way towards Maldon, at a small distance on the right of Woodham Mortimer, already described, we arrive at Haseleigh.

HASELEIGH is about two miles from Maldon, and has at present but one manor; the manor-house stands a little way from the church. The accounts of the owners of this manor are very scanty, though in 1210 Alice de Heilessle held the fourth part of a knight's fee here. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is built of timber, and plastered.

Still further to the right we perceive PURLEIGH, a little south of Haseleigh, which is very pleasantly situated, particularly about the church, the steeple of which commands a pleasing and extensive prospect, as the variety of rises and falls, with the woods and commons in the adjacent country, give it an appearance in some degree wild and picturesque. To the west and north-west are seen the churches of Danbury, Haseleigh, and Woodham Mortimer; and on the north and north-east Blackwater Bay, gradually opening through the distant marshes. On this side is the town of Maldon, with the churches of Langford, Tolleshunt Darcy, Tolleshunt Beckingham, Goldhanger, and Tollesbury; and to the east are seen the churches of Mundon, Steeple, Latchingdon, Althorne, and St. Lawrence. On the south there is a fine view of Canewdon church, and of the Kentish hills, appearing

on the other side of Rochford Hundred. Purleigh Hall, the manor-house, stands near the west end of the church. This estate, at a very early period, was in the noble family of Grey de Wilton.

The church of Purleigh, dedicated to All Saints, is a large handsome structure, consisting of a body and two aisles; the tower, built with flint and stone, is embattled, and contains five bells. Over the western door are the heads of a man and woman carved in stone, supposed to represent the founder and his wife. The inside of the church is very neat, and does honour to one of its worthy rectors, who new fronted the pews at his own expense, and gave a handsome brass chandelier of twelve branches, with this inscription on the bowl: "The gift of Samuel Horsmanden, L. L. B. rector, 1758."

As a further testimony of his piety and munificence he bequeathed, at his death, an elegant service of communion plate to this church. The chancel is paved with stone; the pulpit and the altar-piece are both handsome, and the latter has a Moses and Aaron, tolerably executed. Here is a vestry, and a neat gallery for the singers. In the north aisle, it is supposed, was a chapel belonging to the Bouchier family; and in the church windows are the remains of painted glass, upon which their arms are said to have been formerly depicted.

Within the rails of the altar is a black marble with the arms of the Horsmandens, and inscriptions upon several branches of this respectable family.

Passing Maldon, which we have fully described, and pursuing the course of the Blackwater, we arrive at

GOLDHANGER. This parish is situated upon the bay which receives the Maldon stream, opposite to the Isle of Osey. The distance is four miles from Maldon, and seven from Witham; and the soil is low and light.

The earliest possessors of the manor of Totham, with Goldhanger, were the Jarpenvill family, the Heveninghams, the Browns, and the Sammes; it now belongs to G. W. Cole, esq. of Church Hall, Kelvedon.

Goldhanger Hall and the demesnes were purchased of the widow of Frances Sammes, and of Henry Germaine, by the Rev. Henry Barrett, rector of Herthurst, in Suffolk, whose heir and daughter married the Rev. John Casbourne, but they afterwards sold it.

Fawley, a mansion in this manor, lies near the Channel, at the distance of about half a mile south-west of the church. It belonged to Beleigh Abbey, and ultimately came to the family of the Coes, at Maldon, and is now the property of Mrs. Piggot.

The salt-works here are considerable: rock salt from Cheshire was formerly used, but in consequence of the erection of very extensive works by Messrs. Bridges, Johnson, and Co. the manufactory of salt from the sea-water by steam has been practised with considerable success. The salt of this place, and that of Winstree Hundred, are frequently mentioned in the Domesday survey.

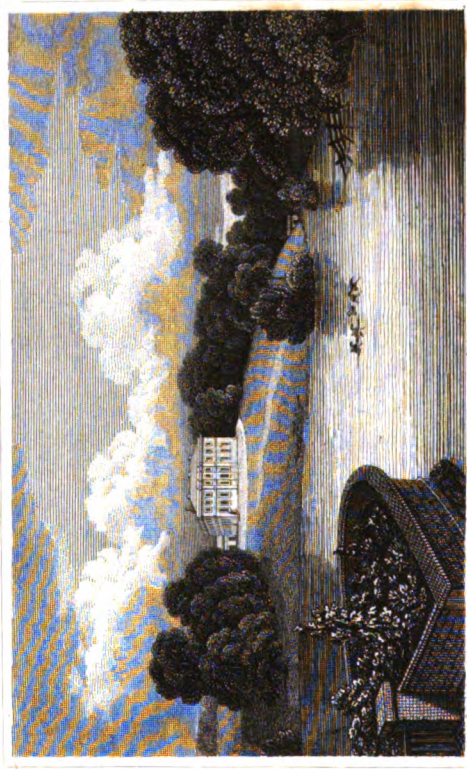
Returning from Goldhanger towards the high road, from which we have made so long an excursion, for the purpose of noticing those places which possess much interest, though lying out of our direct route, we pass the villages of

GREAT AND LITTLE TOTHAM, contiguous to each other. Great Totham lies east of Wickham and Langford. The road from Maldon to Colchester, over Tip-tree Heath, leads through this parish.

Totham Hall, the mansion-house of the manor, stands close to the churchyard on the eastward. At the time of the Survey the manor was held by Hamo Dapifer, who left his great estate to the children of Robert Fitz-Hamon, Lord of Caerdiff and Tewksbury.

whose eldest daughter and coheiress, Mabel, brought it in marriage to Robert, natural son of King Henry I., created Earl of Gloucester in 1109. After passing through the hands of many noble possessors, it came to Thomas Martin, esq. a banker of London: it is now the property of W. Honeywood, esq. of Marks Hall, in this county, who besides possesses the principal part of this parish, with the great tithes, and the advowson of the vicarage. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, was given by Maurice de Totham to the nuns of Clerkenwell; the rectory was also appropriated to them in the reign of Richard I., and a vicarage ordained, of which the prioress and convent had the patronage till their suppression under Henry VIII. This vicarage was augmented, in 1719, by Bishop Robinson, with 200*l.* to which an equal sum was added from Queen Anne's bounty, and an estate was purchased out of the whole.

LITTLE TOTHAM lies between Great Totham and Goldhanger, but though small, and the air not deemed the best, the respectable families of Heveningham and Sammes long preferred it as their place of residence. The manor-house, a neat edifice, near the church, was built by Sir John Sammes. The Heveninghams deduced their pedigree from Walter, lord of Heveningham, in Suffolk, before the conquest, though the first that settled at Little Totham was Philip, in the reign of Edward I. Sir William was with King Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine, where he overcame Sapher, the governor of the castle, who had challenged him to single combat. Thomas Heveningham, esq. was returned for one of the gentry of the county of Essex, in the year 1443. The church, or rather the chapel, of Little Totham, has been annexed to the church at Goldhanger from time immemorial. Mr. Honeywood possesses the greater part of this parish.



Engraved by D. Long for the Couriers through Essex.

BRAYTED LODGE,
The Seat of Peter De Courcey Esq.
ESSEX.

Printed & Sold by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

GREAT BRAXTED, the next village we arrive at, is on the site of the ancient manor and priory of Tiptree.

Tiptree House, a place of great antiquity, is still standing. The priory was appointed for Black Canons, or Canons of St. Augustine. The founder is unknown, but it may be traced as far back as the reign of Edward I., which appears from the prior's having leave to impark sixty acres of land: to this priory the family of Monchensy were the principal benefactors. In the year 1523 it was granted to Cardinal Wolsey, towards the endowment of his two colleges, and was then valued at twenty-two pounds, sixteen shillings and fourpence; at that time there was a church belonging to this manor, but it has been long destroyed. Upon the attainder of the cardinal, Tiptree was granted to John Huddleston, esq. This manor passed through several families to Peter Du Cane, esq. A great part of Tiptree Heath, which is now enclosed, belongs to this manor, but not the whole, as it extends to several adjoining parishes. The church of Great Braxted is pleasantly situated, and contains memorials of the Ayloff family. The late Peter Du Cane, esq. erected a family vault adjoining it.

Braxted Lodge, the seat of Peter Du Cane, esq. consists of a capital house and garden; the interior is elegantly fitted up. A noble avenue of trees leads up to the house; the park is very extensive, and being situated on a gentle eminence affords very agreeable prospects of the country. The present proprietor has expended a large sum in the improvement of the house and grounds, which has been applied with distinguishing taste. The park has been ornamented with a fine piece of water; and this seat contains a good collection of statues, selected by Mr. Du Cane during his late residence in Italy. Viewed from the high road, this seat is a good and conspicuous object. The pleasant

seat called Fabians has been purchased by Mr. Du Cane. The rector, the Rev. Job Wallace, resides in the rectory-house.

On the left of Great Braxted, and between that and Witham, is *Little Braxted*, which contains one manor only, long possessed by the Roberts, afterwards by the Aylets, and is now the property of Sir Wm. Rush, bart. The church, though small, is very ancient, and has a round chancel: the manor-house is situated very near the church.

We now again enter the high road at Rivenhall.

Rivenhall: this, previous to the Norman conquest, was part of the possessions of Queen Editha. It afterwards came to Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, the heiress of whose family having married King Stephen, it fell to the crown. In the thirteenth year of King John, Rivenhall was held by Ralph de Roffa, whose sister and heiress married Robert de Scaleriis. From this marriage descended the celebrated Lords Scales, the last of whose descendants, in 1460, fell a sacrifice to his attachment to the house of Lancaster. His daughter married Anthony Widville, Earl Rivers, who left this manor to Sir Jeffrey Gate, in whose family it continued till 1553, when Sir John Gate was beheaded for having espoused the cause of Lady Jane Grey. It was then seized by the crown, and has since passed through various possessors to the Westerns, now of Felix Hall.

On the left of Rivenhall End is Rivenhall parsonage, and further, on the same side,

RIVENHALL PLACE, now the seat of the Rev. Thomas Western, the rector of the parish. This ancient mansion has a very imposing appearance; the grounds are beautiful, having a fine piece of water passing through them, with a bridge over it.

At the back of Rivenhall is CRESSING, which lies to the south of Witham, and to the east of Little Cog-



Designed by J. C. Powell from a Drawing by J. Gandy for the Birmingham Brough House.

RIVENTHALL PLACE,
The Seat of the Rev. Thos. Western,
ESSEX.

Published by Longman & Co. Stationers, No. 1.

geshall. King Stephen, about the year 1150, granted this manor, with the advowson of the church, to the Knights Templars; hence it obtained the name of Cressing Temple; and here, it is said, that order had a preceptory. When the Knights Templars were suppressed in the year 1311, the manor of Cressing was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers; but when these shared the fate of their predecessors, Henry VIII. granted it to Sir William Huse, and from him it passed to the Smyths family; afterwards to that of Audley; and thence to those of Tuke and Davies, who lastly sold it to Herman Olmius, esq.—it is now the property of Lady Waltham. The manor-house, once an extensive building, in 1626 had a chapel for divine service, christenings, and burials, which was granted to William Smith, esq. lord of the manor, his heirs and successors, provided all things performed therein were done agreeably to the book of common prayer, and being otherwise subject to the church and vicar of Cressing. This church contains a very ancient monument to the memory of some of the Neville family, and is a vicarage in the gift of the vicar of Witham.

A road from Cressing brings us back into the high road at Kelvedon.

KELVEDON, three miles and a half from Witham, is pleasantly situated upon a small eminence, and is rendered lively in consequence of its being upon the London road. The manor of Filiols Hall, corruptly called Felix Hall, is very ancient. Gudmund held it before the conquest, and was succeeded by Hugh de Montfort. It also came into the possession of a family, surnamed Filiol, from the Latin, *filiolus*, or the French *filieul*, a godson; and the first of these Filiols is known to have held lands in this county about the time of King Stephen. Easterford Hall, belonging formerly to a family surnamed de Kelvedon, Ewell Hall, and Dorewards Hall, were considerable mansions

in this parish. The church, at the upper end of Kelvedon, is a large and neat building, with an embattled brick tower; and the vicarage-house, the residence of the vicar, the Rev. Charles Dalton, is delightfully situated near the church.

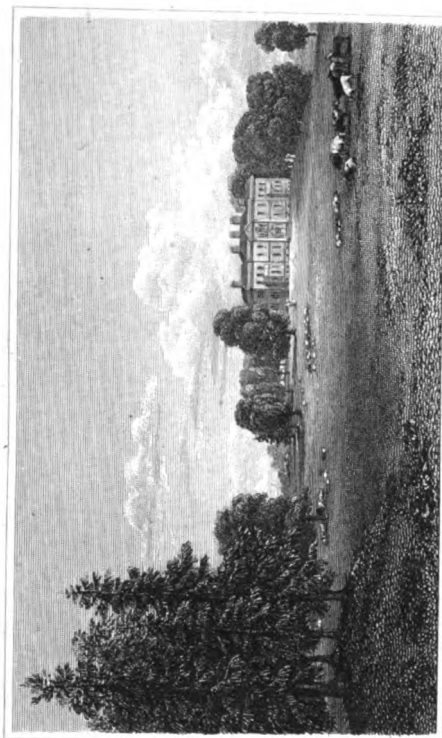
Felix Hall, the modern seat of this name, is about a mile from Kelvedon, on the left hand side of the road leading to Colchester, and is situated on an eminence, commanding an agreeable prospect of the Braxteds and other neighbouring parishes. The hall, which is now the residence of C. C. Western, esq. one of the members for the county, is situated in a small park; the house is exceedingly well fitted up, and the grounds and gardens laid out with equal taste and elegance, containing hot-houses, &c. with every requisite to render them useful and pleasing.

On the opposite side of the road, at a short distance, is situated the village of Inworth.

INWORTH: the church is remarkable for having a small ancient porch on the south side, composed of a mixture of flints and Roman bricks. On the front is a brick cross; and within the porch is a very antique brick lozenge. The interior of the church has some remains of a kind of mosaic pavement; and in a recess in the south wall, near the altar, is the piscina, formerly used by the catholic priests in the celebration of the eucharist.

The manor-house stood about a quarter of a mile from the church, and the manor was formerly part of the revenues of the nunnery of Helenstow, or Elstow, in Bedfordshire.

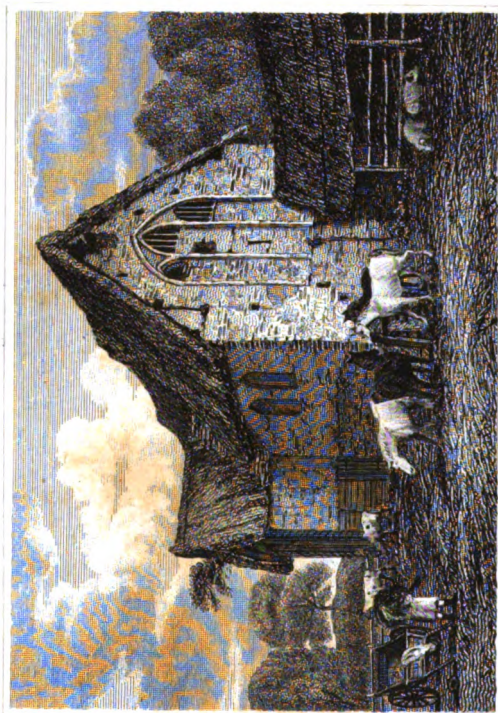
Within a short distance, on the direct road from Kelvedon, is Feering and Gore Pits. This place lies partly on the London road, being divided from Kelvedon by the river Pont, or Blackwater, over which a light and elegant bridge has been constructed. It is nine miles from Colchester and five from Witham. In Ed-



Engraved by T. Hagburn, from a Sketch by J. Long for the Tourists through Little

FELIX HALL,
The Seat of C. C. Western Esq. M.P.
ESS. & H. V.

Published by Longman, & Co. Stationers, in London.



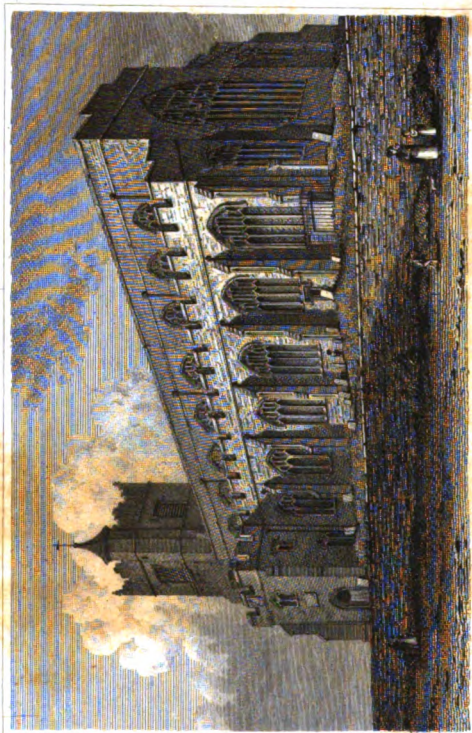
Drawn & Engraved by J. Long for the Traveller through Essex.

Part of

COGGESHALL ABBEY,

ESSEX.

Published by Longman & Co. Manchester &c.



Engraved by W. Diller from a drawing by Henry for the Engraver, George Diller.

**COGGESHALL CHURCH.
ESSEX.**

Printed and Published, 1818, by Longman & Co. Printers in Town.

ward the Confessor's reign Harold had the chief part, if not the whole, of this parish; but at the survey it was holden by the Abbot of Westminster, and Ralph Peverell. The mansion-house of Feeringbury is situated about half a mile from the church. The church of Feering is dedicated to All Saints. The south wall and porch were of brick, and in the windows were pictured a shuttle and three feathers, which gave rise to the vulgar tradition that they were built by a weaver. The tower of this church is of stone, and contains five bells.

About two miles to the left we arrive at Coggeshall.

COGGESHALL, seven miles from Witham, ten from Colchester, and forty-four east north-east from London, contains about 593 houses, and 2469 inhabitants. Coggeshall owes its existence and increase of population to its ancient abbey. That part of the town situated on the Blackwater is low, but the other part, particularly about the church, is high. On account of its pleasant situation on the declivity of a hill, in old deeds it is called Sunnendon, or Sunny Bank. A Roman villa is supposed, for several reasons, to have been situated adjoining the road that leads to the town. An arched vault of brick was discovered here, and in it a burning lamp of glass, covered with a Roman tile, about fourteen inches square, and an urn with ashes and bones; two sacrificing dishes of smooth polished red earth, and on the bottom of one of these was a very legible inscription in Roman characters of COCCILIM, which as Weever supposes was meant for COCCLI MI or COCCILI MANIBUS: to the manes of Coccilius, the lord or Roman governor of this town, who lived about the time of Antoninus Pius; a conjecture also supported by the Roman coin found in the vicinity of Coggeshall. Gough, however, asserts that *Coccilim* is only the potter's mark, found on other vessels in England and elsewhere.

“ In a place called Westfield, three quarters of a

mile from Coggeshall, and belonging to the abbey, a great brazen pot was discovered, being struck by a plough. The ploughman, supposing it to have been hid treasure, sent for the abbot to see the taking it up. The mouth of the pot was closed with a kind of white paste or clay as hard as burnt brick; when that by force was removed, there was found another pot of earth; that being opened, there was found in it a lesser pot of earth of the quantity of a gallon, covered with a substance like velvet, and fastened at the mouth with a silk lace. In it they found some whole bones and many pieces of small bones, wrapped up in fine silk of fresh colour, which the abbot took for the reliques of some saint, and laid up in his vestuary."

The distinction of Coggeshall into Great and Little is of no ancient date, as it is not mentioned in any royal charters or ancient records. Great Coggeshall, in the Saxon times, was held by one Colo, a freeman; and was then a very considerable lordship, though it was not a town then, nor when the Domesday survey was made. Eustace, the great Earl of Boulogne, then held the manors of Great and Little Coggeshall, and the most of the two parishes. From him they passed to Maud, his only daughter and heiress. After her marriage with King Stephen, these manors were settled upon the abbey or monastery, which they founded at Coggeshall in 1142, for Cistercians, or White Monks; and the abbot continued lord of this town and the two manors till the dissolution by Henry VIII. King Henry III. granted the abbot and convent free warren in all their demesnes in Coggeshall, and a fair for eight days yearly, to begin on the 31st of July. He also authorised them to hold a market, provided it was no prejudice to their neighbours. The manor-house stands west of the church; and the manors, both of Great and Little Coggeshall, after having had several owners, came into the hands of Peter Du Cane, esq.

Among the benefactions for the support and education of the poor inhabitants of this place, is the annual sum of 150*l.* payable by the Masters and Fellows of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, out of the estates bequeathed to that college for charitable purposes, by Sir Robert Hitcham, knt.

The court for the manor of Great Coggeshall is called at the shambles in the market-place, and is both a court leet and court baron. Little Coggeshall has also a court leet and court baron, which is kept between the bridges at a private house in that hamlet. Both are holden annually on a Whit Monday.

Hovells, Holfield, or Holvile, the manor-house of Great Coggeshall, formerly belonged to the abbey. It was purchased of King Charles I. by Thomas Aylett, of this town, gent. He had only the site of the manor, not the royalty, which the king kept in his own hands.

Little Coggeshall, now generally considered as a member of Great Coggeshall, was originally distinct from it, and its inhabitants attend divine service at Great Coggeshall; they choose no churchwardens of their own, but only overseers.

Little Coggeshall Hall is the only manor in this parish. The house stands near the river, on the left side of the road from Coggeshall to Kelvedon, and was formerly in the possession of a family surnamed de Coggeshall. The first of this name here was a Sir Thomas, in the reign of King Stephen, whose posterity long enjoyed several considerable estates in this county. Little Coggeshall, though now without one church, formerly had two; one built by the abbot for himself and monks, in the field called the park, on the left side of the abbey, and the other dedicated to St. Nicholas, built purposely for the inhabitants. The abbot's church is entirely demolished, and the bells were carried to Kelvedon; the remains of the other, called the chapel

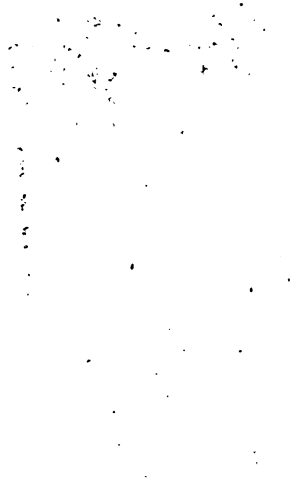
of Little Coggeshall, have been long since converted into a barn.

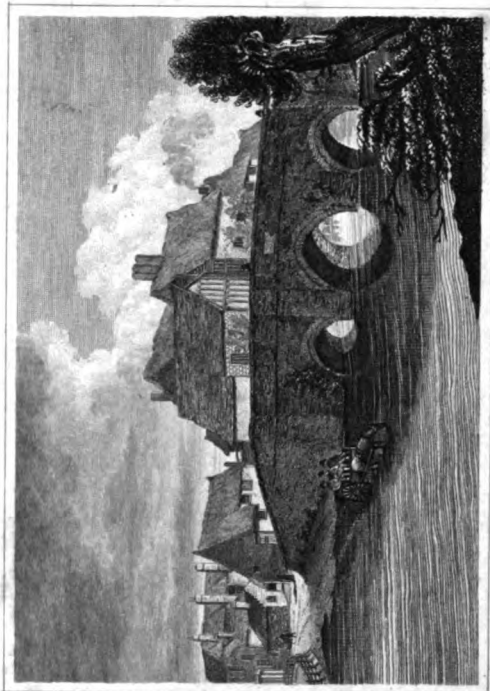
Little and Great Coggeshall have a communication by means of three bridges. What is called Little Bridge passes over the old stream that formerly had a mill upon it, called Tye Mill: the meadow is still called Tye Meadow. Another of the bridges is near the site of the abbey; this was originally built by King Stephen, and consisted of three arches. The river this stands over is not the ancient stream; but a channel cut at the Upper Osiers, a plat of ground so called. The third bridge is in West-street, and is called Hares-bridge.

The remains of Coggeshall abbey are near the river on the Little Coggeshall side. Over a porch, a more modern erection than the principal building, a stone contained this inscription,

B.
R. A.

and the date 1581. This abbey was founded in the year 1142, by King Stephen and his Queen Maud for Cistercian or White Monks, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, &c. As it was built on a part of Queen Maud's territory, the foundation charter runs in her name. She granted it an exemption from toll and other customs in every part belonging to her, and her son Eustace, in England and Boulogne. King John gave them leave to inclose their wood here, and convert it into a park. The abbot and convent founded a chantry in their church to pray daily for King Edward III. Philippa his Queen, and their children, for which that prince granted them and their successors a hogs-head of red wine, to be delivered in London by the king's gentleman of the wine cellar, every year at Easter. This abbey was surrendered to the crown in 1538, it being then valued, according to Speed, at 296*l.* 8*s.* and according to Dugdale at 251*l.* 2*s.* The





Engraved by J. Blore from a Drawing by T. Smith, for the Trustees of the Coggeshall Bridge.

**The Ancient Bridge
COGGESHALL,
ESSEX.**

And from a Drawing by T. Smith, for the Trustees of the Coggeshall Bridge.

same year Henry VIII. granted the principal or chief site of this monastery, the church, &c. to Thomas Seymour, brother of Edward, Duke of Somerset, who exchanged them with the king. The site of the abbey and the abbey farm have been long in the possession of the Bullock family.

The church of Great Coggeshall is dedicated to St. Peter, and pleasantly situated at the upper end of the town, with a good prospect southward. It is a spacious and lofty edifice, with north and south aisles, and a large stone tower, containing six bells. In this church there were founded two chantries, twelve obits, and an endowment for a lamp. Here is a neat marble monument, with an inscription, sacred to the memory of the Hon. Robert Townshend, son of Robert Townshend, gent. of this town; and in the churchyard a stone to the memory of Thomas Hanse, with the following line,

“ Lord, thy grace is free, why not for me?”

This man dying greatly in debt, and being a bankrupt, some of his creditors being ruined by him, they got wrote under it:

“ And the Lord answered and said,
Because thy debts a'n't paid.”

Coggeshall is a vicarage, and the learned Dr. Owen was formerly one of its vicars.

Pattiswic or Pattyswicke is adjacent to the parish of Coggeshall. It is not mentioned in Domesday book, being at that time a hamlet to Feering, as a member of which it belonged to Westminster abbey till the dissolution of monasteries. In part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth and James I. this manor belonged to Sir Edmund Huddleston, bart.; from him it passed to the Darcys, and lastly to Herman Olmius, esq. from whence it came to Lord Waltham, of Newhall. The

capital dwelling called Pattiswick Hall had formerly a large park belonging to it.

BRADWELL is a small village, pleasantly situated about two miles south of Coggeshall. The church is small, but contains a fine elaborate monument, at the back of the communion table, to the family of the Maxies, who possessed this manor in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It is composed of various coloured marbles, elegantly disposed; is about fourteen feet high and twelve broad. The cornice, supported by finely polished marble, is of the Corinthian order. Under an arch on the left are placed the effigies of Sir Anthony and his lady, kneeling, and on the right hand his son and daughter-in-law, in the same posture. Several other branches of this family are buried here. Bradwell Hall, near the church, was formerly surrounded by a small park. In the reign of King John this mansion was in the Doggeworth family, and from them descended through several others to that of Carter; and is now enjoyed by the relict of the late Martin Carter, esq. Osgood Hanbury, esq. an eminent banker of London, has a handsome seat between this place and Coggeshall, called Oldfield Grange.

Marks Hall, near Coggeshall. This has long been occupied by the Honywoods of Charing in Kent. Robert Honywood, esq. in 1605, purchased this estate of Marks Hall, so called from the family of the Merkeshalls, and removed to it from Kent, making this his chief place of residence. From an inscription on a chimney in the great hall, it appears that he pulled down part of the old house and built a handsome front, which was finished about 1609. The seat, pleasantly situated near the church, has a noble and imposing appearance, and large gardens, with a park, fishponds, &c. are attached to it. It is at present occupied by W. Honywood, esq. who succeeded his uncle Filmer Honywood, esq. the late member for Kent.

Returning from Coggeshall to rejoin the Witham road to Colchester, we pass the three villages of Great, Little, and Marks Tey, all upon the left. At the greatest distance from the road is GREAT TEY, as its name implies, the largest of the three parishes: the village is seven miles from Colchester, and four from Coggeshall. The most ancient possessors of this manor, upon record, were the noble family of Fitz Walter. Sir John Montgomery, famous for his military exploits, had this manor, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas, a man of great valour and eminent abilities, created a knight of the garter by Edward IV. It was also in the Audley family, one of whose descendants sold it to George Cressner, esq. The mansion-house stood about half a mile north-west of the church; but was burnt down many years ago, and not rebuilt. A new barn has been erected on its site for the demesne lands; these were called the New Barn lands: the moats surrounding the house were levelled and ploughed up. This lordship was formerly of very great extent, and is now the property of Colonel Astle.

The manor-house of *Up-Hall*, anciently called Walter at Tey, is on the south-west side of the parish, not far from the Coggeshall road, and the estate consists of about 156 acres.

Bacons with Flories, formerly two manors, afterwards became one, and were so named from their ancient owners. The Brook, the large house so called on account of its situation, stands above a quarter of a mile south of the church; and by ancient writings it appears that on its site there was a cluster of tenements, or rather a little village. *Wareyns*, the house so called from a family of that name that lived in the time of Henry V. stands in Tey-street, and was repaired about half a century since. *Trumpingtons* took its name from a family, and was sometimes called Trumping-

tons and Fidlers. The Dorewards, who had the house, &c. afterwards gave it to the priory of St. Botolph's, in Colchester. After the suppression of religious houses, Trumpington was given with other grants to Thomas, Lord Audley; and has since passed through various hands. The house stands half a mile south-west of the church, and was formerly moated round.

ESGORES formerly contained the house of Sir Francis Brian, and *Lambards*, or *Lamberts*; was so called from an ancient family in the parish.

The church, dedicated to St. Barnabas, stands upon an eminence, and consists of a body and two aisles, supported by pillars of the Tuscan order. The north aisle is covered with lead, as was also the south, till the time of the civil wars, when the lead was taken off and converted into bullets. A large square stone tower rises between the church and the chancel, and contains eight bells. A small leaded spire which used to stand near the south-west corner of this tower, being much decayed, was taken down about the year 1742. The windows of this church were formerly decorated with the escutcheons of the family of the Fitz Walters.

Nearer the road is Little Tey, six miles from Colchester, and seven from Witham. It is justly styled *little*, the parish being one of the least in this county. In old records it is sometimes called Tey Godmare. The manor-house is in Feering. The church, dedicated to St. James, is very small, and contains nothing particularly worthy of notice. The Rev. Erasmus Laud, rector of this parish in 1641, rebuilt the parsonage-house, the barn, &c. and is chiefly memorable on account of the cruel usage he received from the Colchester mob, merely, as it is supposed, from his bearing the same name as Archbishop Laud.

Near the junction of the Coggeshall and Witham roads is MARKS TEY, five miles from Colchester, and

eight from Witham. It was called Merks or Marks from a family surnamed de Merk, by whom it was formerly held under the Mandevilles, lords paramount, from whom it received the appellation of Tay Maundeville, and was sometimes called Tay at Elms, from the trees of that kind growing on the road to Coggeshall; and it has been remarked that elms thrive remarkably on this soil.

Marks Tey Hall. stands about a quarter of a mile east from the London road; but was converted into a farm-house many years since. There was a moat round it, part of which still remains. About the year 1592, the manor having been long in a family that took the surname of Tey, W. Tey, esq. made it over to Queen Elizabeth, and she granted it to Charles Cornwallis, esq. since which period it has had a variety of owners, and is now the property of Sir William Rowley.

The church of Marks Tey, dedicated to St. Andrew, stands about a quarter of a mile from the Coggeshall road. This church was originally a part of the fee of the Mandevilles here, and the vicarage so poor, that for 169 years successively it was not worth any one's acceptance, till Bishop Compton generously purchased the parsonage-house, and the glebe, about 35 acres, which, with the tithes of all the estates in the parish, except such as belonged to the then lord of the manor, made this a very comfortable living, which with some others he gave to Baliol College in Oxford. Mr. W. Bree, one of the rectors, built a very good parsonage-house, near the London road, to which he added gardens and other improvements. The chancel of this church contains a painted window with the arms of Bishop Compton.

A road from this place leads to Aldham, about a mile and a half from the high road, and at no great distance from Great Tey.

ALDHAM. This name evidently denotes *the old vil-*

lage. A part of this parish crosses the London road, and takes in some of the great field belonging to Marks Tey Hall, the 46th milestone being in Aldham. The mansion of Aldham Hall stands near a mile south-east of the church, and under the de Vere family was in possession of the de Merks, who had the adjoining parish of Marks Tey. The Glasscock family were also in possession of a capital messuage in this parish called *Aldham Hou*, or *Hoo Place*. It is an ancient brick building with bow windows, and partly encompassed with a moat, as the ancient seats used to be for greater security. The hall window contains the representation of several coats of arms.

Bourchiers Hall, otherwise Little Fordham, another noble mansion, took its name from the Bourchiers, who were advanced to the title of Earls of Essex, and Fordham, because situated near Ford-street, or the street at the ford, over the river Colne, and called *Little*, to distinguish it from Great Fordham, from which it is only separated by the water. Bourchiers Hall stood high and pleasant, about a quarter of a mile west of Ford-street, and had a good view of Mersey island and the sea. Of the Bourchier family there are no records later than the year 1483, when the hall came by marriage to William Parr, esq. afterwards created Earl of Essex, and Marquis of Northampton, who was beheaded for espousing the cause of Lady Jane Grey, against Queen Mary. It afterwards came to the Sayers, but in the failure of their male line, it was deserted and fell into decay, so that in process of time it was taken down, and only a few of the offices left for a farm-house.

Adjoining Bourchiers Hall, to the north-west, is a parcel of land called the Wic, which has usually gone with it. Hill farm, near Ford-street, seems to have been taken out of the former manor. There is an estate called Crape in this parish, near the parsonage, consisting of a house, a barn, and six closes of land,

left from time immemorial for the benefit of the poor. It is vested in trustees, and the rents are annually distributed on Candlemas day, or soon after, in the parish church, to sixteen poor inhabitants of Aldham not receiving weekly collection of alms, and not having his or her rent paid; but no poor inhabitants can partake of this charity who have not been married five years, and this being their first marriage. A ruinous old chapel on the north side of the church has been taken down many years; and there is nothing at present remarkable in the church. On the glass of the old chapel were the effigies of a man and woman with hands lifted up in the form of devotion. The man had a sword by his side. Under them was an inscription in old letters, viz. Pray for the soul of James who first founded this chapel in honour of St. Anne, the mother of Mary. In the next pane were the effigies of another man and woman, also in a posture of devotion, having on their clothes a spread eagle, with a border engrailed, &c.

FORDHAM is only parted from Aldham by the river Colne. Fordham Hall stands near the church; and this part of the manor was held under William the Conqueror, by Hugh de Gurnai; the demesnes of the other manor of Argentines, vulgarly Archendines, are supposed to have been what was lately a farm in the western part of the parish, belonging to the heirs of Richard Sparrow of Colchester. The church stands high, and in the unhappy civil wars, like some others in this county, was stripped of its lead to be formed into implements of destruction. Its lofty spire, which rises from a square tower, is seen at a great distance. A free chapel in Fordham was granted by King Edward VI. in 1549 to Ralph Agard, and Thomas Smyth, and their heirs; but of its site there is not the least remembrance.

From this place you may proceed to Colchester without again joining the London road.

When at Kelvedon, some persons may wish to make an excursion through Inworth, already described, to Messing, as the painted window in the church there is well worth notice.

MESSING, a neat village, six miles from Witham, is written differently in records, *Massinges, Mettings, &c.* Roger, lord of the greatest part of this parish, was one that came in with the Conqueror, and being a favourite was rewarded with several manors in the county of Essex. The manor of Messing, otherwise Baynards, and Baynards Castle, which was a very capital building, stood about a quarter of a mile from the church, rather low in its situation. It has been taken down nearly half a century since. The east window of the church at Messing is beautifully adorned with some stained glass, representing Faith, Hope, and Charity, and the works of mercy, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, &c.; and the colouring is exquisite.

This valuable glass is said to have been conferred on the church by Christopher, or Sir Charles Chibborne, who caused it to be otherwise ornamented, and the sides of the pews to be neatly carved. The Rev. J. Boys, one of the vicars of this parish, caused the parsonage-house to be new built.

In the north wall of this church, under an arch, are the effigies of an armed knight carved in wood. Tradition reports this figure to have been that of the founder, Sir William de Messing; but the inscription over him is obliterated by time. He is cross-legged as a Knight Templar, or a crusader at least.

In the aisle is the following inscription, remarkable for the quaintness of the style.

“ Here lieth buried John Porter, yeoman, who died 29th April, 1600, who had issue eight sons and four daughters by one woman.

“ Learn so to live by faith, as I did live before;
Learn so to give in faith, as I did at my door;

Learn so to keep by faith, as God be still thy store ;
 Learn so to lend by faith, as I did to the poor ;
 Learn so to live, to give, to keep, to lend, to spend,
 That God, in Christ, at day of death may prove thy friend."

The manor and advowson of Messing are now the property of the Right Honourable Lord Grimstone.

At Messing is Hill House, the seat of John Griggs, esq. and Fitz House, Mrs. Rand.

Proceeding from this place to rejoin the road towards Colchester, we pass the villages of Great Birch; East Thorp, and Copford. In the former is *Birch Castle*, a little way south-east of the church: this is only a mount, encompassed with a trench; though, as it is said Sir William Gernon had a castle here, this mount and trench have been taken for a part of its remains; however, these are by others supposed to be a continuation of the stupendous works raised by the Romans on Lexden Heath. The manor-house of Birch Castle has long since become a mere cottage. The church here contains nothing remarkable.

Little Birch Hall, in the adjacent parish, was a very ancient edifice, chiefly built by the Tendring and Golding families, and was ornamented in several parts with the escutcheons of their arms. In 1727 and 1728, this hall was handsomely rebuilt by James Round, esq. and was afterwards much improved by his successor, Charles Round, esq. Part of what is called the Old Holt, and the New Holt, is in this parish. The Old Holt, called a manor, formerly belonged to the Tey family, seated at Marks Tey Hall. The church being in a ruinous condition, about half a century ago, the escutcheons of the Swinnerton and Edred families, who made this their burial-place, were removed to Earl's Colne.

The manor of Great and Little Birch went usually with East Thorp; and in the earliest times both were held of the honour of Boulogne. The manor-house is

about two miles north-west from the church, opposite to Gernons, otherwise called the White-house. The mansion of William a Birches stands about a mile from the church, on the west of the road leading to Layer Cross, and took its name from a family surnamed de Birch, or Briche, and was afterwards in that of the Teyes.

At Great Birch is the residence of John Wright, esq., and that of the Rev. R. Waller.

EAST-THORP signifies the eastern village, with respect to Kelvedon and Feering. It is seven miles from Witham, and an equal distance from Colchester, and about four from Coggeshall. *East-Thorp Hall* stands near the church, which is very small, and dedicated to St. Mary. In the south wall is an arch, which seems to have been the burial-place of the founder. Here is also a rose window with these arms: argent, three piles in point, gules; gules, a lion rampant, argent. Argent, on a chief indented gules, three martlets, or. In the south window of the chancel are the remains of these arms; and in the north window was depicted an armed knight with a red cross on his breast, lifted up under the arms by two angels, and his helmet taken off by another angel. There is also a burial-place for some of the Kingsmill family in the chancel.

COPFORD lies a little below Marks Tey, on the right hand side of the London road to Colchester. Here we meet with *Copford Hall*, the manor-house, the seat of John Haynes Harrison, esq. which stands on the north side of the church, and to which good gardens and fish-ponds are attached. From the earliest times, down to Queen Elizabeth's reign, this manor belonged to the Bishops of London. Bishop Bonner resided here some time, and a walk, enclosed by trees, which leads to the church, is said to have been made by him for the benefit of the parishioners. Copford church stands on the south side of the town; the body contains a south aisle. The walls are very thick,

having formerly been arched all over, and some remains of these arches appear in the chancel, the east end of which is semicircular. When this church was repaired in the year 1690, at the charge of the parishioners, in scraping the walls, in order to white-wash them, some paintings of Christ upon the cross, St. Peter's wife's mother lying sick of a fever, and of St. Mary Magdalen, were discovered. These were all whited over again, but in no other way defaced. The doors of Copford church are much adorned with a kind of flourished iron-work, which, according to a tradition revived in 1690, originated in some old history, stating that this church being robbed by some Danes, they were afterwards taken, and being put to death, their skins, for this sacrilegious act, were nailed to the doors underneath the iron-work before mentioned, which it would appear had been added for the purpose of preserving this singular example of retribution.

Leaving Copford, we rejoin the great road at Stanway.

STANWAY, about five miles from Coggeshall, and four from Colchester, derives its name from two Saxon words, a stone, and a way, being on the Roman military road leading from Stortford through Dunmow, Braintree, and Coggeshall, to Colchester. Before the Norman conquest it was the property of Earl Harold, when passing to William the Conqueror, it was not granted away from the crown till the reign of Henry II.: it has since passed through numerous families.

Stanway Hall, the residence of William Green, esq. pleasantly situated upon an eminence on the road side from Colchester to Maldon, was once a stately building, raised out of the ruins of the old one by Sir John Swinerton; a great part of it was again pulled down by Captain Thomas. It had several

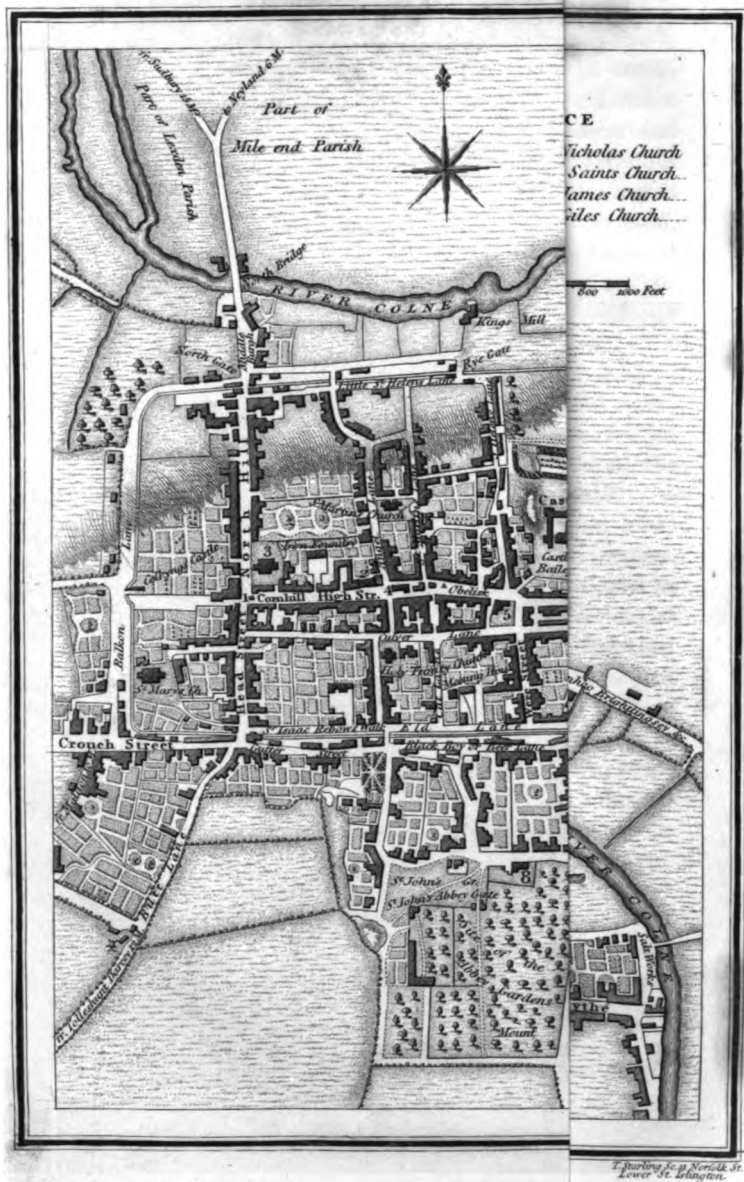
large fish-ponds and a park; and the warreners and bailiffs of this manor were considered as highly respectable persons. The manor-house of Stanway stands on the south side of the London road, near the brook.

In the year 1764, on the south side of the London road here, a number of large bones, vertebræ and tibiæ, with their joints, were found, lying in a stratum of sea-sand and small shells. The bed was about a yard thick, and above it another of ooze, or river-mud, of three inches in thickness, over which were several veins of yellow sand, gravel and mould; the tibiæ were much corroded, but the other bones perfectly well polished.

There were formerly two churches in this parish; that which remains on the south side of the London road, near Stanway Hall, is supposed to have been the chapel of St. Æthebyrth, or Athelbert, being the name of the Saxon saint to whom it is dedicated.

Within a mile of Colchester, on the London road, we pass through LEXDEN, anciently called Lessenden. At the Domesday survey it was a village or hamlet in Stanway manor. In the reign of Henry II. it belonged to H. de St. Clare; it was afterwards in the Fitzwalter family, the Ratcliffs, and the Lucases. Lexden had increased so much in 1692, that when the poll-tax was levied in that year, it was paid by 240 persons in this village. On the south side of the London road, just at the top of Lexden Hill, formerly stood a famous cross, built of brick and stone. This cross, Morant observes, "is frequently mentioned in ancient writings, some of which have a particular reference thereto." Lexden Lodge is the manor-house.

The church, dedicated to St. Leonard, stands on the south side of the London road, about the middle of the village; on the north side is a small aisle or chapel; and at the west end a shingled spire.



At Lexden, we observe, on the left, the pleasant seats of George Round, esq. the banker, John de Horne, esq., and the parsonage-house, the Rev. George Preston; on the right — Papillon, esq. late Mrs. Rawstorn; and Lexden Park, late William Turner, esq. now purchased by John Mills, jun. esq. banker of Colchester. Between Lexden-street and the town of Colchester is the residence of Dr. Roddam.

COLCHESTER. Approaching this fine old town, we perceive it to be principally situated on the summit and northern aspect of a delightful eminence, rising gradually from the river Colne, which flows on the north and east sides, and is navigable to the spot called the New Hithe, in the east quarter of the town. The space enclosed by the remains of the ancient walls forms a parallelogram, having its longest sides towards the north and south. The buildings without the walls are very irregularly disposed, chiefly on the south and east. The principal street, running nearly east and west, contains many handsome houses and shops. Much attention was formerly given to the walls, but now they are in a great degree destroyed. The town and suburbs comprehend twelve parishes, of which eight are within the walls, but some of the churches are destroyed; those we now observe are St. James's, All Saints, St. Nicholas, Trinity Church, St. Martin's, St. Peter's, and St. Mary's. The Moot Hall, founded by Eudo Dapifer, the ruins of the Castle, St. John's Abbey, and St. Botolph's Priory, are the most visible antiquities of this ancient and celebrated town.

After much discussion among antiquaries and other persons curious in their researches into ancient history, the claim of this city to the Roman distinction of *Camulodonum* can be no longer disputed. It may perhaps be regretted that the flourishing state of this colony should have been interrupted by the causes which led to the vengeance exercised by the insulted

Britons, under their Queen Boadicea; when the Roman forces in Camulodonum being unable to make head against the overwhelming numbers of the Britons, the reduction of this place was followed by that of London and Verulam, when the unfortunate inhabitants were murdered without pity; and at the same time many of the proud remains of genius and the arts were involved in one common ruin; nor did the Britons obtain the object they sought. Their victory was short-lived: their patriotism and valour were as nothing compared with Roman skill and discipline. The death of Boadicea, and the total defeat of her army by Suetonius, soon after the destruction of Camulodonum, extinguished the last hope that remained of recovering their lost superiority.

From the authority of Pliny, and other corresponding circumstances, it has been assumed that Camulodonum was soon restored by the Romans. Morant observes, "great numbers of coins, even of Claudius himself, and of Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, and their several successors, are found in and about the place, not in heaps, pots, or large quantities together, as if they had been designedly buried, but dispersed all about as if accidentally lost at different times; *bushels*, I may say, have been found, but chiefly in the higher parts, a certain proof that the Roman city stood there."

The same writer further observes, there are more Roman remains in and about this town than in any other part of South Britain. Immense quantities of Roman bricks are to be seen incorporated, or rather are the chief materials in all the most ancient and public edifices. The town-walls, the castle, and the churches, are half built with them; and in several parts even the Roman workmanship is copied. The bricks are generally about eighteen inches long, eleven broad, and two thick, exceedingly hard, and well baked. The *Sepellex Romana* of all kinds still abound

here: hardly any place being dug up without urns, vases, and pottery of all sorts, at least fragments of them, being discovered. Sepulchral urns, with the ashes therein, are likewise frequently found, as well as lamps, rings, intaglios, chains, &c. A remarkable *sepulchral urn* in particular was taken up here a few years ago: it was a large vessel, made of thick, coarse, light clay, containing twenty gallons; within was an urn of black earth, holding about two gallons, and having in it the ashes of a Roman lady, as may be supposed, because there were also with it two bottles of clay for incense, two clay lamps, one metal vessel for ointment, and a speculum of polished metal, anciently used for a looking-glass.

In the year 1738 several urns were discovered just within St. Botolph's Gate, together with a Roman lamp, some pieces of melted metal, and two coins of Domitian. Another urn was found, in March, 1749-50, in Windmill Field, near the west end of the town, holding about a pint, and within it two large coins of brass; one of Antoninus Pius, the other of Alexander Severus: near it was a leaden coffin, wrought all over with lozenges, with an escalop shell in each. Within the coffin was a skull, and some remains of the vertebrae, together with two bracelets, four bodkins of jet, and one very small bracelet of wrought brass. Another urn, twenty-two inches in diameter, and two feet four inches deep, was found in the year 1753, in a field on the south side of the London road; in the urn was a metal speculum. A small brass statue of Mercury, and the fragment of another, supposed to be a Venus, have also been discovered near this town.

Tesselated pavements have been frequently dug up in different parts of Colchester. In 1748 one was discovered in a garden, in the parish of the Holy Trinity, with some fragments of a figured urn, and a coin of Constantine, the younger brother. In 1763 another

fragment was found in a garden in the High-street, belonging to Mr. John Bernard, an apothecary, consisting of a plain border of red *tesserae*, each about an inch square, inclosing a curious ornamental centre of chain-work, and squares, composed of black, white, red and yellow dies. Many Roman *patera*, fragments of sculptured vessels, sacrificing instruments, Roman bracelets, and other antiquities, have also been found here; and in a field, near the west end of the town, part of a Roman hypocaust.

The strong intrenchments raised by the Romans whilst they were in possession of Colchester, are frequently alluded to in the topographical descriptions of this county. The first rampart is supposed to have crossed the road a little to the eastward of Lexden, and extends southward a considerable way, and northward nearly in a straight line to the river; thence it proceeds to the road leading to West Bergholt, beyond which it is no longer discernible. The furthest and most considerable rampart is nearly parallel with the first, extending southward towards Mersey Island, and northward to the river, where it is continued across Bergholt Heath. In the space between these ramparts are many others, and some apparently in other directions. The area of the whole is very large, and sufficient, at the time it was formed, to secure the country from the incursions of the hostile Britons, that period excepted when the colony was ruined for a time by the invasion of Queen Boadicea.

The tradition that the Emperor Constantine and his mother were born at Colchester is now given up by all good authors: the most that can be admitted is, the probability that when Constantine came into Britain, he made Colchester a place of occasional residence previous to his decease at York in 306. His wife, Helena, might also be much attached to Colchester, and to its Christian inhabitants, who among

her pious labours enumerate the foundation of St. Helena's Chapel. After her departure from Britain, her zeal for the Christian religion led her to make a journey to Jerusalem.

Under the Saxons, Colchester was called Colneceaster, or Colne ceaster; but the increase of the metropolis, and its more favourable situation for trade and commerce, contributed materially to its decrease. Under the Danes its improvement, for many reasons, was retarded; however, from the Domesday Book, it appears to have been a very considerable town, as the number of burgesses who then held houses under the king was 276; and the houses in their possession 355. Besides these, the Bishop of London held fourteen houses here, and forty-five acres of land; Hamo Dapifer one house, and one court or hall; and Earl Eustace twelve houses; thirty-two houses were also held here by twelve other persons. Eudo Dapifer, who had much land in Essex, made Colchester his principal residence.

During the troublesome reign of King John, Saher de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, besieged Colchester with an army of foreigners; this was in the year 1215; when hearing that the barons were advancing from London to relieve the place, he retired to St. Edmund's Bury. However, some time after, Saher, or some of his party, returned, got possession, and having plundered the town, placed a garrison in the castle, which was soon after invested by King John, and obliged to surrender. In the year 1218 Colchester was taken by Prince Louis, son to Philip II. of France, who had been invited into England to assist the barons. The castle walls were now disgraced by the banners of France, which were not suffered to wave long: the barons submitted to their new sovereign, Henry III., and their efforts, united with those of the monarch, soon compelled the French to leave the kingdom.

In the reign of Edward III. this town had the misfortune to be exposed to the attacks of Lionel de Bradenham, a powerful and avaricious man, who aimed at nothing less than the exclusive possession of the fishery of the river Colne, which had been granted to the burgesses of Colchester by Richard I. Being foiled in his attempt by Robert de Herle, the lord admiral, he blocked up the avenues of Colchester with a daring banditti; and, during three months, kept the inhabitants under continual apprehensions lest he should set fire to the town: he was at length successfully opposed, and obliged to procure his pardon by the payment of a large sum of money. In the year 1348, when a large naval armament was raised to blockade Calais, Colchester furnished five ships, and 170 mariners. In this year, and 1360, the town being infected by the plague, numbers of the inhabitants fell victims to its ravages.

In 1455 Colchester was visited by Henry VI., who, according to the usage of those times, was received with a great display of show and pageantry.

The inhabitants of Colchester having strongly attached themselves to the interests of the Princess Mary, when she was opposed by persons who wished Lady Jane Grey to ascend the throne, this queen paid them a visit a few days after she had obtained secure possession of it. She was of course received with great rejoicings, and on her departure presented with a silver cup, and twenty pounds in gold, then esteemed a sum worthy the acceptance of a sovereign. As Colchester was at this period distinguished by the diversity of its religious sects, the flames of persecution were here lighted up by this bigoted queen, in the vain attempt to unite a diversity of opinions in a mode of faith which the country at large was at that time beginning to explode. Here the strange tenets of the *Family of Love* were propagated by one Christopher

Vitels, the disciple of Henry Nicholas of Delft, its original founder, and obtained many converts. Besides the gift of the burgesses of Colchester to Queen Mary, an account is preserved of the items of the expense on that occasion by the chamberlain of the town; viz. for 38 dozen of bread, 39s.; for 40 gallons of claret wine, 48s.; ten barrels of beer; a quarter of beef, weighing five score and ten pounds, 9s. 2d.; a side of beef, weighing seven score and five pounds, 12s. 2d.; a veal, 4s.; half a veal, 2s. 2d.; two muttons, 9s. 4d.

The accession of Queen Elizabeth to the throne of England had the happiest effects upon Colchester, where numbers of persons confined, on account of their faith, were immediately liberated from their dungeons. About the same time this town was considerably benefited by the results of another persecution, carried on in Flanders by the Duke of Alva, as the Flemings, whom he had expelled from their homes, sought, and found a place of refuge here. Here they introduced the art of manufacturing bays and says, which rendered Colchester far more flourishing than it had been for many years. In the decline of the year 1579, the town was honoured with a visit from Queen Elizabeth, who continued there two days. At the commencement of the unhappy differences that took place between Charles I. and his parliament, Colchester declared against the King, and in 1642 petitioned for an increase of the fortifications of the town, for which the sum of 1500*l.* was granted. After this, the royalists, particularly the Lucas family, became extremely obnoxious here; but the horrors of civil war were not felt in their utmost extent till the year 1648, when the memorable siege of that town reduced the inhabitants to the last extremity.

At this time many of the nobility in different parts of the country were taking measures to restrain the power of the parliament, and raising forces with that

intent. The royalists in Essex had seized the parliament's committee sitting at Chelmsford, and having assembled a considerable body of men, marched, under the command of Sir Charles Lucas, to Brentwood, where they were joined by Lord Goring, who had advanced to meet them. Their force being increased on their march by various parties from different quarters, the whole thus collected together amounted to 3400 foot and 600 horse. This force being still deemed incompetent to measure their strength with Fairfax, then in close pursuit of them, it was resolved to proceed to Colchester.

Having arrived before the place, the inhabitants shut the gates, and collected about 60 horse to defend the passage; but these efforts were futile; on the approach of Sir Charles Lucas, with some companies of cavalry, they thought it most prudent to capitulate upon the best terms they could get, and finally agreed to deliver up the town, on a promise that it should be preserved from plunder, and none of the town's people injured on account of their former conduct. The advantages thus gained by the royalists were of short duration. Fairfax soon arrived, and summoned Lord Goring to give up the place, and make his men lay down their arms; a proposition which being rejected, an assault was immediately ordered, the suburbs were forced after an obstinate conflict, and nothing but the most determined bravery prevented the town from being carried. Some foot soldiers had even entered it with the retreating royalists, who in their confusion closed the gate upon many of their own party. This attack continued between seven and eight hours, when Fairfax, seeing the inutility of his efforts, ordered his troops to retreat, and immediately commenced a rigorous blockade. In this disagreeable state, Fairfax again proposed terms of surrender, but refused to promise quarter to any but the common men and officers under the rank of cap-

tains; and after 11 weeks had elapsed, all the provisions in the place being exhausted, and the inhabitants and soldiers compelled to feed upon horses, dogs, and other animals, the garrison was obliged to submit to these hard conditions.

Soon after Fairfax had entered the town, a council of war being held at the Moot Hall, they condemned Sir Charles Lucas, Sir George Lisle, and Sir Bernard Gascoigne, to suffer death; stating, for the reason of this procedure, "that after so long and obstinate a defence, it was necessary for the example of others, and that the peace of the kingdom should be no more disturbed in that manner, that some military justice should be executed, and therefore that the council had determined that they three should be presently shot to death." Gascoigne being a foreigner, his sentence was reversed: but Sir Charles Lucas, and Sir George Lisle, were shot upon a green spot of ground only a few paces from the castle, and submitted to their fate with the most intrepid bravery, professing their loyalty to the last moment. Their bodies were privately interred in St. Giles's church. Lord Goring, Lord Capel, and the other officers, were by Fairfax assured of "fair quarter as prisoners of war," but this lenity of their general the parliament thought proper to disavow. Lord Capel was impeached and brought to trial, and refusing to acknowledge the authority of the court, he underwent the infliction of his sentence in March 1649. The sufferings of the town, however, did not end with the siege, for a contribution of 14,000*l.* was imposed on the innocent inhabitants, out of which 2000*l.* was afterwards remitted. Two thousand pounds were appropriated to relieve the distresses of the lower orders, which were very pressing, and the remaining 10,000 distributed among the soldiers that were employed in the siege, during which 300 houses had been burnt or otherwise destroyed. It was remarkable that

one half of the reduced contribution was laid upon the Dutch congregation in Colchester, which, as Morant observes, "they greatly complained of as exorbitant and unequal." Nor did these persons meet with much better treatment from the town; as out of the 2000*l.* remitted by Fairfax, it was with much trouble they obtained 100*l.*

Such, this author observes, was the end of this unhappy affair, which shattered and demolished a great part of "so eminent a town" as the Lord Fairfax called it at his first coming; and deprived it of the advantage, residence, neighbourhood, beneficence and protection of the considerable families of Lucas, and Sir Harbottle Grimston, by destroying their seats; and brought the trading part and almost all the inhabitants into inexpressible poverty and distress, from which many were never able to recover. Happy would it have been for Colchester if the royalists had not bent their course this way, or had dealt with a more expeditious and generous enemy than Fairfax. The formal and tedious manner in which he blocked up and besieged this place conferred a stigma upon his name, long remembered by the inhabitants.

The circumference of the walls of Colchester is one mile and three-quarters. In their perfect state they were entered by four principal gates and four posterns, strengthened by several bastions, and on the west defended by a small fort called *Coltynnes castle*. On every side the town was defended by deep ditches. In a recess in the wall of Colchester, near the northern door, are two rude sculptures, in basso relievo, apparently Roman; and near them an inscription, certainly so: there are other rude sculptures of later times on the walls. The remains of the castle stand upon an elevated spot to the north of the High-street. The vast thickness and solidity of the walls are sufficient indications of the importance attached to the situation of the

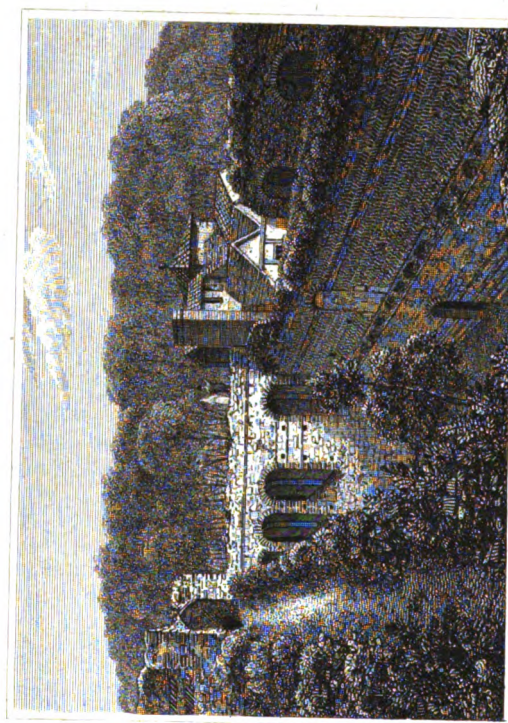


Drawn & Engraved by J. Knight for the Engravings through Essex.

Exterior of
COLCHESTER CASTLE.
ESSEX.

Printed by W. J. Smith, No. 1, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.





Engraved by T. Bigham from a Drawing by J. Gray for the Enslinow through Essex

Interior of

COLCHESTER CASTLE,

ESSEX.

Pubd. Jan. 1. 1811. by Longman & Co. Pall-mall New.

place. The whole building was constructed of a mixture of flint, stone, and Roman brick ; and its general style is Norman, probably raised on the site of some anterior Roman building with a vast portion of its materials. The castle was built in the form of a parallelogram, the east and west sides measuring 140 feet each, the north and south sides 102 : at the north-east and north-west angles were projecting square towers, at the south side on the west face another square tower ; and on the east face a semi-circular tower ; the external radius of which was 20 feet. The principal entrance was near the south-west tower, beneath a strong semi-circular arch with three-quarter columns, and capitals ornamented in the Norman style, and formerly defended by a porteullis. At a little distance from the entrance is a square room, and at the further end of this a modern flight of stairs leading to the vaults. Beyond the stairs was a large area formerly inclosed by a roof and divided by a wall running north and south. This place included upon its different floors the several apartments of the castle, and a gallery that ran between the walls which crossed the area, one of which has long been demolished. Beneath, at the south end of the gallery, is a strong arched room that receives a scanty portion of light through a small opening in the south wall of the castle. Tradition reports that this wretched place was the last residence of Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle.

At the extremity of the wall which separates this area from a second, is a door above and below, which led to apartments that filled the space between the east wall of the castle and the gallery. At the south end of this space in the south-east tower on the ground floor, is a strong arched room, with walls of extraordinary thickness. In the south-west tower is the grand circular staircase, being arched above and built of stone. This leads to a modern room used for a

subscription library; an arcade of modern workmanship runs along the north side of this, and leads to the ancient chapel, a venerable piece of architecture; the beauty of its proportions strikes the eye notwithstanding the massiveness of its construction. The roof is strongly arched: the light enters through five windows; two of which have been enlarged, but the others remain nearly in their original state. The length of this chapel is 47 feet, the width nearly 40, and the height in proportion. The arched vault beneath is used as a prison.

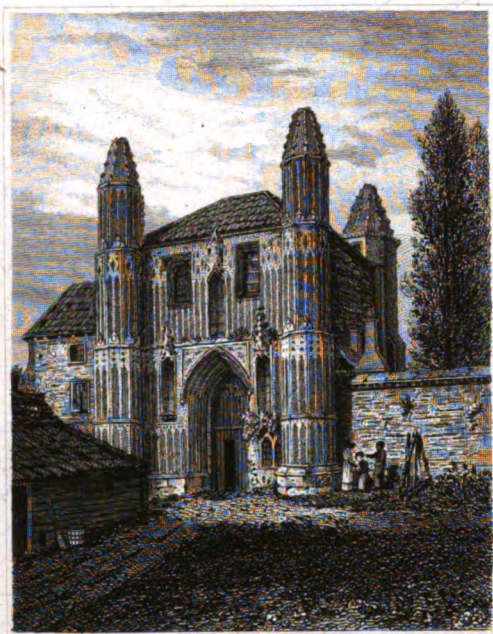
In the north-east and north-west towers, upon the same floor as the chapel, are various small rooms or recesses, and in the latter a staircase descending from the upper part of the tower and terminating at the first floor. At the foot of the stairs in the north wall of the castle is a sally port, which opened from an abutment of the north-west tower. This sally port, nine feet wide, and the great doorway in the south, are the only original entrances into the castle; the other entrances have been since cut through the solid walls. From the principal staircase in the north-east tower another flight of steps leads to what was the second floor. The walls of this story were nine feet thick. The dome which covers the staircase, the passage formed upon the west and north wall of the castle, and the small room upon the summit of the north-east tower, are all of modern construction. The great doorway in the north wall, and the small port in the east wall, are likewise modern, and were formed with great labour by the enlargement of a narrow window in each place. All the original windows were so narrow as to admit but a very scanty portion of light. An arched niche, about three feet deep, formed the inner opening of the window; in the back of which niche another of less dimensions, gradually decreasing in breadth, penetrated about seven feet further, at the extremity of

which a narrow aperture, only eight inches wide, lined with hewn stone, was made through the remaining thickness of the wall. From the floor of the rooms an ascent was made to the narrow aperture of the window by a small flight of steps. The castle on the south and west sides was strengthened by a massive wall, in which were two gates, the site of which is now occupied by a range of modern houses. The castle with its precincts, called the Bailey, has been supposed extra-parochial, and exempt from the jurisdiction of the borough officers, but it is now decided otherwise. The town originally was feudatory to the castle; but in the reign of Queen Elizabeth an exemption from all services, fines, &c. purchased by the burgesses from her Majesty, was afterwards confirmed by parliament.

Colchester castle was in possession of the crown at a very early period. The Empress Maud granted it to Alberic de Vere. It was next bestowed upon Stephen Harengood. Henry III. granted it to Guido de Rupeford or Rochford, who did not retain it above two years. Edward I. bestowed it successively on John de Burgh, Richard de Holbrook, and Laurence de Scacaris, Sheriff of Essex: to the latter it was granted as a county gaol, and its demesnes ordered to be ploughed and sowed for the king's use. Edward III. granted it to Robert de Benhall, knt. during life. By Henry VIII. also it was given for life to Sir Thomas, afterwards Lord D'Arcy. Robert Norfolk, esq. next enjoyed it, but having impoverished himself by building the range of houses now standing in the High-street, on the south side of the Castle Bailey, he sold it in 1683 to John Wheely, who purchased it for the purpose of pulling it down and selling the materials; he eventually disposed of it to Isaac Rebow. Of his son, Charles Gray, esq. the possessor of it in 1772, purchased it. He repaired the roof, and built a

dome of rough materials as nearly resembling the rest as possible. The deep ditch and the strong rampart of earth on the north and east sides this gentleman took into his own gardens. This rampart was thrown up on a wall that it is thought formerly encompassed either the castle or palace of Coel, the British prince that resided here as second general or governor of the district under the Romans, about the year 288; but the serious attempt of Mr. J. Wheely to level it with the ground was only defeated by its own solidity. Much damage, however, was done: large quantities of Roman bricks were taken away, and most of the free-stone of the door and window cases, and the interior of the arches. The tops of the towers and walls were forced down with screws, or blown up with gunpowder; but the expense of effecting its complete destruction was so great that the idea was given up, it being found that the materials would not defray the price of the labour.

The town, suburbs, and liberties of Colchester comprehend 16 parishes, eight within the walls; but some of the churches are demolished. The remainder of these, with the ruins of St. John's Abbey, St. Botolph's Priory, and the Moot Hall, constitute the chief of the ancient and public buildings. St. John's Abbey, a large and magnificent structure, was founded by Eudo Dapifer in 1097. It occupied an eminence without the walls on the south side of the town; but the entrance gateway, and some fragments of the other parts, are its only remains. On some portion of its site a wooden church had formerly been erected, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, under whose influence the monks reported some miracles had been performed near the spot. Eudo, however, though he built St. John's Abbey, is said to have endowed it so scantily at first that two different sets of ecclesiastics, whom he had procured to reside there, deserted it, and returned



Engraved by J. Long, from a Sketch by T. Dighton for the Beautified View of Essex.

Remains of
ST. JOHN'S ABBEY, COLCHESTER.
ESSEX.

Printed by Longman & Co. Stationers, &c. New.

to their original residence at Rochester. William, a priest and nephew to Eudo, we are told, spared neither pains nor expense in completing this abbey in a superb style about the commencement of the year 1104, when it was consecrated by Maurice, Bishop of London. Eudo, who died at his castle of Preaux in Normandy, was, at his own request, brought to England and buried here. At the suppression its annual revenues, according to Dugdale, were 523*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, a sum thought to have been much below the real worth. John Beche, the last abbot, was attainted of high treason for refusing to acknowledge the king's supremacy; and on December 1, 1539, was hanged upon the same gallows which the abbots of St. John had granted the burgesses of Colchester liberty to erect in their manor of Greenstead. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted the site of the monastery to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, kn^t. for 21 years. Finally, passing to John Lucas, town clerk of Colchester, master of requests to the king, he converted the abbey into a family seat, a circumstance that greatly contributed to its destruction, as John, Lord Lucas, his descendant, elder brother of Sir Charles Lucas, for assisting the royalists during the siege of Colchester admitted a garrison into it; this caused a considerable part of it to be battered down, and it was stormed on the 14th of July, 1648. At that time it appears to have consisted of the entrance gateway, and two quadrangular piles containing courts. The gateway is built with hewn stone and flint; the workmanship is very neat, and is supposed to be of later erection than any other part of the abbey. The abbey church was a singular building, having a tower in the centre with circular angles, terminated by small conical spires; the west front was also decorated with circular turrets. The garden walls, which still remain, enclose about 13 or 14 acres.

Near the north-west corner of St. John's garden is

St. Giles's Church, a small building, partly in ruins, though the chancel is still used for divine service. This was the burial-place of the Lucas family; and upon Sir Charles Lucas, who was interred here with his companion in arms, Sir George Lisle, a marble stone is thus inscribed :

Under this stone ly the Bodies
Of the Two most valiant Captains
S^r Charles Lucas, and S^r George Lisle, Knts,
Who for their Eminent Loyalty
To Their Sovereign,
Were on the 28th Day of August 1648,
By the Command of S^r Tho. Fairfax
Then General of the Parliament Army,
In cold Bloud Barbarously Murdered.

Another ancient erection, partly destroyed during the siege, was the *Monastery of Crouched Friars*, founded about the year 1244, when that order first came into England. After undergoing several alterations, in 1407 it became the seat of the rich Guild of St. Helen, and with their possessions, four chantries established here and in the church of St. Nicholas were incorporated. In 1637 the monastic buildings having been converted into a handsome dwelling-house, were occupied by Sir Harbottle Grimstone; this, on account of his being a royalist, became obnoxious to the parliament's forces, and suffered considerably during the siege. The remains of it were fitted up as a workhouse, but have since been taken down.

For a considerable time it was supposed that one of the old houses in Colchester bore the very ancient date of 1090, but from the extraordinary discussion that followed on this subject, it seems much more reasonable to suppose that, the lower parts of the figures being worn away, the real date was 1440.

Of this house Blomefield remarks, " Almost oppo-

site to the Moot Hall stands the house whereon is the famous date 1090, concerning which so much hath been written. It is newly rebuilt, and before it was so the front was judged to be between 200 and 300 years old; but the inner parts were much ancients, nay, reasonably deemed to be as ancient as the time of Eudo Dapifer, by whom it is supposed to have been originally built, as well as the Moot Hall. For there were several arched passages in and about it built in a very strong and elegant manner, which shewed not only signs of antiquity but of grandeur. And there are some parts of the Moot Hall built in the same taste.

“ In the same yard where the date is there are three more window cells, in the same style and with the same sort of work as this. On two of them are carved the arms of Colchester in two escutcheons, and coats of armour. Now escutcheons and coats of armour were not used till the 12th century at soonest, as hath been shewn by Sir William Dugdale; therefore this escutcheon, with the date thereon, seem not to be so ancient as the year 1090. To deliver my own opinion freely, I really believe, as did also the late Rev. Mr. R. Turner, that this date was set down by the carpenter from tradition, or taken from some ancients date undoubtedly in Roman numerals, which stood upon the *Old Stone-house* (as it is called in some writings in my possession), when it was new-fronted with timber in the 14th or 15th century.”

St. Mary's Church is near the south-west corner of the town, upon an elevated site. The body was rebuilt in 1713, and in 1729 the old tower was heightened twelve feet and repaired.

St. Peter's Church was founded previous to the Conquest, and is the only one in Colchester mentioned in Domesday book. It was repaired and modernized in 1758, and had a new brick tower erected at the

west end; the original tower stood at the intersection of the body and chancel. Here a chantry and a guild existed before the dissolution. On the north side of the chancel against the wall is a fine monument of black and white marble, with the effigies of Martin Basil, alderman of this town, who died in 1623, and his wife, Elizabeth, kneeling. There is a desk between them, and below six males and seven females. The inscription is in gold letters. In the north aisle of the chancel a pair of iron gates encloses another beautiful monument.

St. Peter's Church has lately been fitted up in a very elegant and beautiful style at a great expense, and some excellent stained glass introduced into the chancel window. A very fine altar-piece has also been painted, and presented to this church through the medium of the mayor of Colchester, by J. J. Halls, esq. This painting represents the raising of Jairus's daughter to life. This church and that of St. James have pews fitted up in a very neat manner for the mayor and corporation. St. Peter's possesses a fine peal of eight bells.

St. James's Church is the most considerable within the walls of Colchester, and is supposed to have been founded about the reign of Edward II. It consists of a body, chancel, and side aisles, with a square tower at the west end. The south aisle contains a monument to Arthur Winsley, esq. alderman of the town, who founded almshouses for twelve persons in St. Botolph's parish. A new passage has been made into the church, by opening an arch under the steeple.

This church has lately been very neatly fitted up. Here is a fine altar-piece of the adoration of the shepherds, painted by George Carter, esq.

The church of All Saints, or All Hallows, stands on the south side of the High-street. A handsome tower at the west end, neatly constructed of flints, with stone

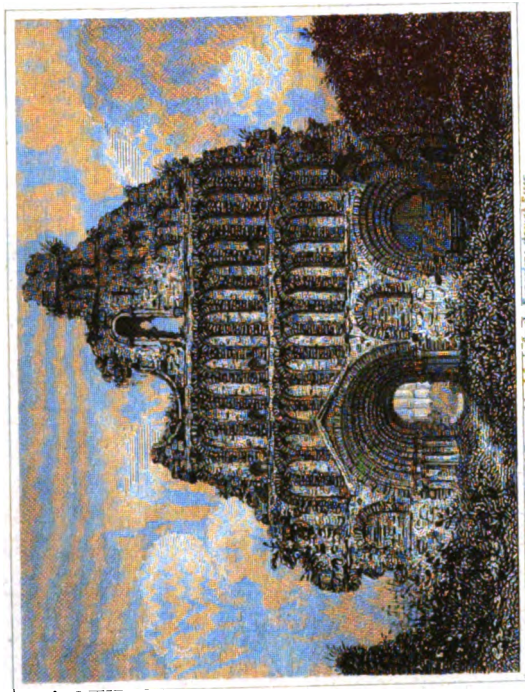
work at the angles, contains five bells. The south wall of the church is built in the Roman, or herring-bone fashion. In the chancel is a grave stone for Edmund Hickerlingill, an eccentric divine, who was 46 years rector of the parish. This church was built before the year 1356. Some fragments of a monastery of Grey Friars are incorporated with other buildings near the east gate in this parish.

St. Runwald's, a small church standing in the middle of the High-street, is sometimes written *St. Rumbald*. The legendary account of this Saxon saint states that he was the son of a king of Northumberland, by a Christian daughter of Penda, king of Mercia: that at an early age he desired to be baptized, chose his own godfathers, and his own name. He was chiefly honoured at Boxley in Kent. The church is small, but adjoining to the chancel is a north aisle or chapel, which was dedicated to *St. Mary*. A little wooden turret rises from the centre of the church, which contains the following singular epitaph in the Latin language; "I have lived, and finished the course which Fortune had given me.—J. Goddard, died 5 June, 1709, aged 26." This church, after having been shut up and left to decay upwards of 100 years, was re-opened for divine service in the year 1760, at the expense of the parishioners. *St. Runwald's* possesses an organ and an altar-piece.

St. Nicholas. This church has been completely repaired since the tower fell upon the body and chancel some years ago; happily the workmen employed to repair it were absent. The altar-piece here is a representation of the Last Supper; the Resurrection is on one side of the communion-table, and the appearance to *Mary Magdalen* on the other. This church has a peal of bells, and a projecting clock dial; and is often called the *Dial church*. This parish contains the chapel of *St. Helen*, so named from its dedication to

Helena, the mother of Constantine; Eudo Dapifer, founder of St. John's abbey, rebuilt it in the year 1076: some years ago it was repaired, and used as a Quakers' meeting-house, but now, as a subscription library.

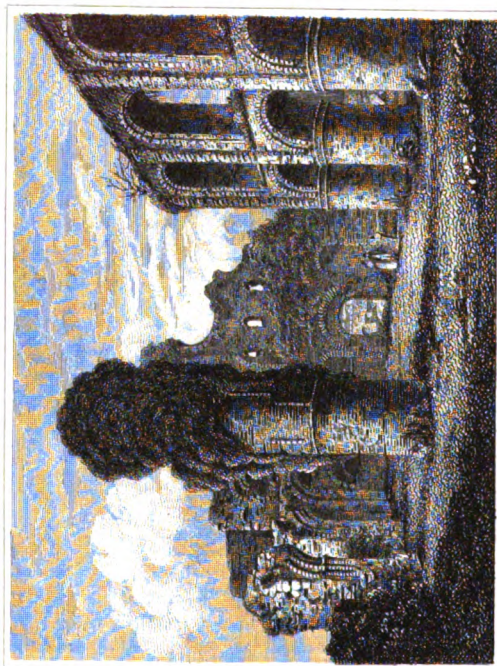
St. Botolph's Priory stands at a short distance from St. John's abbey, the destruction of which, like the former, was hastened by the civil wars. This is generally understood to have been founded by a monk named Eynulph or Ernulph, in the beginning of the 12th century. He was also the first prior, and the religious of his establishment were canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, the earliest of that fraternity in England. A donation bestowed upon these canons by Hugh Fitz Stephen was confirmed by Henry III. on condition that the canons in every Welsh war should find a horse of five shillings value, a sack, and a spur, for the king's use, for 40 days. Few remains of this building can at present be traced; some of them have been modified into the walls of a brewhouse erected on their site. The priory church continued perfect till the time of the siege of Colchester, but was then in a great measure demolished. The contending parties accuse each other of being the wilful occasion of its destruction. Its ruins, notwithstanding, have been admitted as "extremely interesting to the architectural antiquary." They exhibit some curious specimens of brick ornaments and of interlaced arches. In its original state the length of the edifice within the walls was 108 feet; its breadth, including the nave and the aisles, nearly 44 feet. The west front was highly embellished; and here was the principal entrance, which still remains. A fine semi-circular retiring arch forms the door-way, having various mouldings constructed with small thin bricks and hewn stone, in alternate succession. The mouldings were supported by three-quarter columns, of



Drawn & Engraved by J. Smith for the Engraver, through A. Smith.

West Front of
ST BOTOLPH'S PRIORY, COLCHESTER.
ESSEX.

Printed by J. Smith, for J. Smith, at the Engraver's, &c.



Engraved by E. Roberts from a Drawing by J. P. Neave for the Illustrated London Times.

Interior of

**ST BOTOLPH'S PRIORY, COLCHESTER,
ESSEX.**

Published by Longman & Co. Stationers, &c.

which there were five on each side, each having different capitals, charged with sculptured foliage and figures of animals. Above the door-way a double row of interlaced arches of Roman brick appear to have extended to each extremity of the front. Above these arches, near the centre, are the remains of a large circular opening made to admit light into a gallery that formed a passage between two stately towers that once stood at the angles of the building. The nave was separated from the aisles by rows of circular columns five feet and a half in diameter, supporting semi-circular arches. Six of these columns, with their arches, are still standing on the north side, but on the south two only remain. Both the columns and the arches are principally built with broken Roman bricks, and appear to have been covered with a kind of stucco. The north aisle appears to have been altered; the windows being finished in the pointed style. Since the whole area has been appropriated as a garden, several tombs and broken stones have been observed among the vegetables cultivated there.

St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital, at some distance to the east of St. Botolph's, was originally founded by Eudo Dapifer in the reign of Henry I., for lepers. The revenue was augmented by King Stephen, and Richard I. granted the brethren liberty to hold a fair for two days. In the reign of Edward I. the tythes of St. John's abbey and other revenues belonging to this hospital were withheld by Adam de Campes, then abbot of St. John's, who insidiously getting possession of the common seal and charter, expelled the brethren, who were nevertheless reinstated some time after, and their privileges restored by order of parliament. After the suppression of this hospital in the reign of Edward VI., its possessions were scattered, and the chapel entirely destroyed; but in 1610 it was refounded for a master and five poor

unmarried pensioners, under the name of the college or hospital of King James, and the brethren were incorporated. A few old buildings now remaining on the north side of Magdalen church are the only vestiges of the hospital at present.

St. Leonard's Church, still further to the east, and not far from the river, once possessed two chantries. This steeple contains a peal of bells. The church is neat, in good proportion, and well built: the roof and side aisles are of exquisite workmanship. The roof of the chancel is wainscotted, and on the boards are painted the patriarchs or ancestors of Jesus Christ, according to his genealogy in St. Matthew and St. Luke. Some handsome old stalls remain in the chancel.

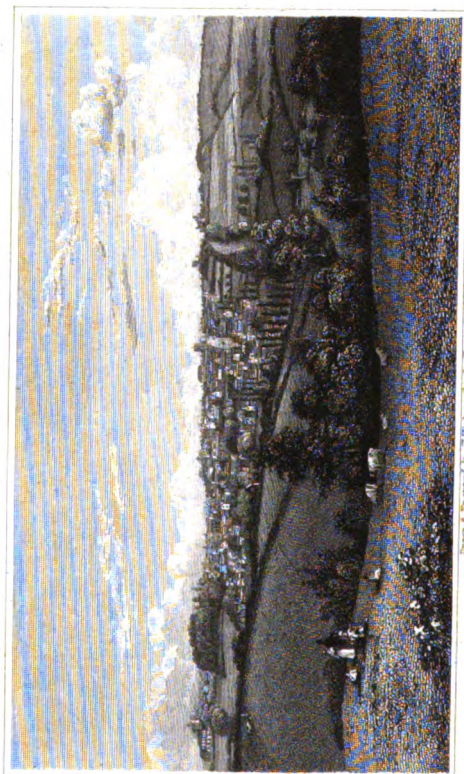
The situation of Colchester commands prospects both distant and agreeable. It is so near the sea as to have the advantage of excellent fish, particularly soles and oysters. Though it stands high, it is well supplied with water from many fine springs rising in several places, besides that which is conveyed to it by the waterworks.

The lines of contravallation and vestiges of the forts of the besiegers remain visible round the town in many places.

The river Colne, which passes through Colchester, encompasses it on the north and east, and served as a special means of defence in time of war. There are three bridges over it, and it is navigable within three miles of the town for ships of large burthen: up to that part called the Hythe, it is navigable for hoys and small craft close to the houses.

The Hythe is a long street passing from east to west, and has been so populous towards the river as to be deemed the Wapping of Colchester.

The battered walls, the breaches in the turrets, and the ruined churches, long shewed marks of the siege.



From a Negatif by T. H. Jones, for the American Book Co.

COLCHESTER,
from Mile End,
ESSEX.

Published by Longman & Co. New York City.

The church of St. Mary, at the walls, was the royal fort, and the besieged had a large culverin upon the steeple, which doing great execution, two-thirds of this was battered down by their opponents. The church was rebuilt, and the steeple put in a state of repair. There is a beautiful monument on the wall in the north aisle in this church, of black and white marble, to the memory of Martin Rebow, esq.

We cannot quit Colchester without noticing its numerous embellishments and improvements. A new theatre has been erected in Queen-street, capable of holding upwards of 1500. Here is also a new market. The town, too, is now supplied with excellent water at a very moderate price. Queen-street and St. Botolph's-street are very much improved by the taking down of St. Botolph's Gate. The paving of Barrack or Magdalen-street, at a very large expense, the taking down of the Old Butter-market in the High-street, and reducing the ascent to East Hill by lowering it several feet; added to these, the erection of the new bridge over the Colne, called East Bridge, the levelling of St. John's Green, and widening the road by St. Giles's church by taking down the abbey wall, &c. are all evidences of the general improvements of this interesting town.

Among the seats in the vicinity of Colchester, we have still to notice those of Francis Smythies, esq. and Colonel Harris; the first on the left, between Lexden and Colchester, and the second on the right; both possessing the advantage of rich views.

MILAND is on the north side of Colchester, in the road leading to Nayland, and is a parish of large extent. The most considerable estate here is called the *Severals*, and sometimes King's Wood, being originally part of the royal forest granted to the burgesses of Colchester either by Henry I. or King Stephen, and after by Henry VIII. This estate has been mentioned as

the most considerable belonging to the corporation. The manors of *East Mile End* and *Abbot's Hall* are so called from having been possessed by the abbot and monks of St. Osyth. Henry VIII. granted these estates to Thomas Lord Cromwell, and afterwards to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford; in 1556 they were in the Lucas family. The church of Miland is very small, and contains nothing particularly worthy of notice.

From Colchester we shall proceed along the river Colne, towards Mersey Island: on our way passing Battleswick, we arrive at East Donyland, which we shall describe on our return, at a small distance from which is FINGRINGHOE, situated near the road to Colchester, and is about four miles and a half from that place, and 14 from Maldon.

LANGENHOE lies near Mersey; the name is derived from the Saxon, and signifies long hill. In Edward the Confessor's time it was possessed by Ingelric; it is about five miles and a half from Colchester.

PELDON lies to the west of Langenhoe; it is about six miles from Colchester and 11 from Maldon. This estate was granted by William the Conqueror to William the deacon, about the year 1086, towards rebuilding Saint Paul's cathedral, which had then been newly destroyed by fire; hence this manor came into the possession of the bishops of London. Edward VI. granted this manor and the advowson of the church to Sir T. Darcy, knight, afterwards Lord Darcy.

MERSEY ISLAND is a spot of considerable antiquity and importance, and appears to have been the residence of a Roman general: and as Morant believes, unquestionably that of the *Count of the Saxon Shore*, especially as this island was so convenient for preventing the piracies of the Danes and other northern rovers. This island is situated at the confluence of the rivers Colne and Blackwater, being separated from the main land by the small creek or channel of

the Pyefleet, long celebrated for the best flavoured oysters. The length of Mersey, from north-east to south-west, is about five miles; its greatest breadth about two. The only road by which it is approachable is a causeway called the *Strode*, and this at high water is covered by the sea. The island possesses many natural beauties, is well wooded, and beautifully variegated with hill and dale. On the sea coast the shore is bold and commanding, but on the north flat and shelving, and skirted by a great extent of salt marshes. The soil on the higher parts, according to the agricultural survey of the county, consists of a dark-coloured friable mould, with a sandy or gravelly loam beneath, and a deep hazel-coloured strong earth on a brown tender clay. The embanked marshes and heavy high lands have been much improved by the application of chalk. The farms are separated from each other by thick hedge-rows, but the enclosed fields are generally small. The springs in the island are excellent.

The respective situations of East and West Mersey naturally divide the island into two parishes. Great part of the latter was given by Edward the Confessor to the priory of Andoen in Normandy, and a cell of Benedictine monks belonging to that house was soon afterwards founded here. On the suppression of the alien priories, Henry V. granted it to archbishop Chicheley, who settled it on the collegiate church which he had founded at Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire. On the dissolution, the manor of West Mersey and other estates were granted *in capite* to Robert D'Acres, but were afterwards given by Edward the Sixth to Thomas Lord D'Arcy of Chich. When some alterations were making in West Mersey Hall, which stands near the church, about the year 1730, a very fine tessellated pavement was discovered, extending twenty-one feet and a half in length, and

eighteen and a half in breadth. At this time Cromwell Mortimer, M. D. fellow of the college of physicians, and secretary to the Royal Society, son of John Mortimer of Toppingo Hall, in this county, went down to examine and take a drawing of this pavement. The account he gave of it is as follows; "On the right of the gravel walk which goes from the green to the hall door, about a foot deep, he found the south-east corner of the pavement. He first met with a white border, 21 inches wide, composed of *tessela* three quarters of an inch square, then a narrow list of black, three inches wide, and within this a white list; which three seem to have run through the whole pavement without interruption. All the *tessela* of these parts were but half an inch square. Next to the white list runs a wreath or chain five inches and a half wide, beautifully disposed in shades, continued along the whole of the eastern side, and making a return at the south-east angle, but interwoven with another short wreath of red, yellow, and white, disposed in shades in the form of an S, made square, but separated by a narrow white list, except where they cross each other. Just beyond the red wreath on the south side was a white square, bordered with black, and in the middle of which was a large rose of four leaves, shaded with red, yellow, and white; within this square a narrow white list east and west; close to this a black, blue, and white wreath like that on the east side, and within that another white list an inch and three quarters wide, which seemed to run round the whole work. At the south-east angle of this white list two parallel lists of a sort of fretwork, five inches wide, and nearly five feet long, running south and north, joined at the north end by a return of the frets. These frets are alternately shaded with black, blue, and white, or red, yellow, and white, enclosing a white space four feet and a half long and nine inches wide,

containing a wreath of six ivy leaves ; the stalks and edges of the leaves blue ; the middle of the leaves alternately shaded one with black, blue, and white, the other with red, yellow, or white. At the north end of this fretwork was a square white space, which seemed to be the middle of the east side. Close to the west side of this fretwork ran another white list an inch and three quarters wide, extending the whole length from south to north. Next to this was a wreath of red, yellow, and white, five inches wide, of the same length as the foregoing, and joining to this another white list of the same length, but only two inches and a half wide. Then comes a very narrow black list one inch wide, which seems to have run quite round the larger middle square. Along the south and east side of this middle square is a row of diamonds or lozenges, 12 inches in diameter, bordered with white, each containing a knot or wreath crossing at right angles, and alternately composed one of black, blue, and white, the other of red, yellow, and white, disposed in shades ; the intermediate triangular spaces being each divided into three smaller triangles, the middle one white, the three outer ones blue. Encompassed by these lozenges and triangles, at the south-east corner, was a small square, two feet on each side, surrounded by a narrow black list, and within it a wreath of red, yellow, and white, in shades, five inches wide, enclosing a small white square, bordered with a double list of black and white, having in its middle a rosaceous flower like the *lotus*, consisting of four large leaves lying uppermost, composed of red, yellow, and white ; and the points of four others lying underneath appearing between in such another small square as this." The doctor therefore concluded that there were three of these lesser squares on the east side of the churchyard pales, and this upon digging he found resembling the former in every particular, with the same

border of lozenges round it, from which he likewise inferred that there were but two of these small squares on the south side. The general inferences from the preceding description were, that the whole pavement was of an oblong rectangular form, extending twenty-one feet and a half from east to west, having at each angle the blue and red wreaths interwoven; next to them two of the square white spaces, with the large rose in each on the north and south side, with an oblong white space between in the middle of each of these sides. On the east and west sides were the fret-works, with the ivy leaves repeated on each side the white space in the middle of each of these sides. Then a red wreath on the east and west sides, and a blue wreath on the north and south sides of a larger square, which formed the middle of the pavement, containing three of the lesser squares in a row on the western side, and three on the eastern side; whilst the whole of the intermediate spaces were filled up with lozenges and triangles.

The minister and sexton told the doctor that the whole churchyard was paved of an equal depth, and that most of the coffins were laid on these pavements, which were of different sorts in different parts of the churchyard. In the chancel they found a pavement of red tessellæ one inch and a half square, forming the rays of large stars. West of the church these pavements were composed of small tiles, two or three inches square. When Dr. Cromwell revisited Mersey in 1740, he saw a grave dug in the churchyard eastward of the church, and due south of the south-west corner of the grand pavement, which contained part of a pavement entirely composed of red tessellæ an inch and a half square.

From the diversity and contiguity of these tessellæ, extending nearly an hundred feet from east to west, and about fifty from north to south, the doctor con-

cluded that the grand mosaic pavement was not merely the groundwork of a general's tent, but rather that the whole belonged to the villa of some Roman prætor, who might have been invited by the delightfulness of the situation to make this his summer abode; these pavements being similar to that at Weldon, in Northamptonshire, discovered in 1738 upon the estate of Lord Hatton.

Besides several small pieces of brass, such as buckles, hasps, *styli*, &c. which the farmer at West Mersey informed the doctor had been found about his yards and orchards, he shewed him a curious article, being a ring of brass five inches in diameter, with small holes in the border of it, probably for the purpose of sewing a leathern bag to it, fastened at the top by a swivel, and a loop to pass a belt through. This was supposed to have been the rim of a military pouch, or the bag of a fundator or slinger, in which he carried his missile weapons.

West Mersey Hall stands near the church.

The manor of *Peete* is not confined to this island, but extends as far as the parish of Peldon. *Peete Hall*, the mansion-house, is about a mile and a half north out of the island, near Peete Bridge. The causeway leading hence to Colchester is from Peete Bridge by Peete Tye, across Abberton Green, over Manwood bridge, by the side of Blackheath, and enters the town on the east of St. John's Abbey. *La Peete*, viz. this estate, is mentioned by name in Edward the Confessor's grant to St. Ouen's Priory.

The mansion-house belonging to the manor of *Bower Hall* is about a mile and a half north-east from the church. This manor, as well as the former, belonged to St. Ouen's Priory.

The mansion-house of the manor of *Bocking Hall* stands about two miles north-east of the church. This manor was originally part of the possessions of the

two noble Saxons, Atheric and Leofwune, who in the year 1006 gave it to the church and priory of St. Saviour in Canterbury, with the lordship of Boeking in Essex. Coming to Arthur Winsley, esq. of Colchester, he made it a part of the endowment of his hospital there.

The passage into the island is at low water every eight hours over the causeway of the *Strode* or *Stronde*, and is supported by an estate in the parish of about 30 acres, called the Strode lands. There was also a Strode-keeper; and in the time of Henry VIII. a church house. The present church of West Mersey stands near the south-west corner of the island, but it has nothing about it very remarkable.

East Mersey, or the eastern part of this island, was held by the great Sweyne at the time of the survey. Here is the manor of Reushall, Reveshall, Russall, or Northlands. The mansion is above a mile from the church. There is no mention of this manor till the year 1368, when William, son of Hugh Groos, had a moiety settled by his brother in trustees for the maintenance of a chantry priest in the new chapel of Bentley church, who was to have 8*l.* 3*s.* and 200 faggots from his manors. Another estate, or capital farm in the southern part of this parish, is called Ruffalls. It was held by the Capels, &c. The church of East Mersey formerly had five bells; and the steeple, a square tower of stone, served as a sea-mark, and has also supported a beacon.

At no great distance from Mersey island are Great and Little Wigborough.

GREAT WIGBOROUGH lies to the west of Peldon, and is about seven miles from Colchester.

The manor of Abbot's Hall took its name from the Lady Abbess of Barking, or from the Abbot of St. Osyth, and continued in the possession of the latter till the dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted it to Crom-

well. Upon his attainder it again fell to the crown, and was appointed towards the maintenance of the Princess Mary, afterwards Queen Mary. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk; from his family it passed through various possessors to Henry Cline, esq. of London. The church stands on a hill, from whence there is a very extensive prospect both of sea and the country around; and near it the remains of a tumulus.

SALCOT WIGBOROUGH is a hamlet to Great Wigborough, and takes its name from a saltwork here. The church of Salcot stands near the creek, which parts it from Salcot Verley, and are so near each other as to have given rise to the common tradition of their being built by two sisters, who not agreeing, each built a church for herself. It is not, however, improbable that the difficulty of passing the creek to go to church might induce the Lord of Verley to build one for his tenants, but it is now only esteemed as a chapel. Salcot Verley lies opposite to this place.

LITTLE WIGBOROUGH lies to the west of Mersey island, and is about eight miles from Colchester.

About four miles distant from Mersey island, and on the east of Goldhanger, is **TOLLESBURY**, which to the eastward runs up to a point opposite Mersey island, having the Blackwater on the south. The name is evidently derived from the word *toll*, and Bury, a town; and from being the place where toll or custom was paid by ships coming up this bay.

The manor-house, called *Tollesbury Hall*, stands south of the church, and was appointed for the maintenance of the Princess, afterwards Queen Mary; it is now the property of Peter Du Cane, esq.

Nearly on a line with Tollesbury is **TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY**, having an ancient mansion-house near the churchyard, moated round, with a stone bridge over the moat, the property of General Rebow. In King

Stephen's reign it belonged to the Tregoz family, afterwards to the de Boys, and then to the D'Arcies. It is about six miles from Maldon.

New-house, or White-house farm, in this parish, was purchased by the trustees of the charity of Henry Smith, esq. in 1635; who besides his great munificence to almost all the towns and villages in Surrey, left money to buy lands, the rents of which were to be distributed among the poor of 14 parishes, four of these being in Essex, viz. Braintree, Henham, Terling, and Tolleshunt Darcy. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, has a north aisle or chapel called Darcy's, being the burial-place of that family.

About a mile distant from this is TOLLESHUNT MAJOR, or MAGNA, a corruption from Tolleshunt Malger; it has been also called Tolleshunt Beckingham, from the Beckinghams, to whom it was granted by Henry VIII. An ancient brick gateway belonging to the manor house, having four embattled turrets, is yet standing. This manor was settled, in the year 1711, by Dr. Daniel Williams, who had purchased the reversion, on a society for promoting the Gospel in New England, and other foreign parts.

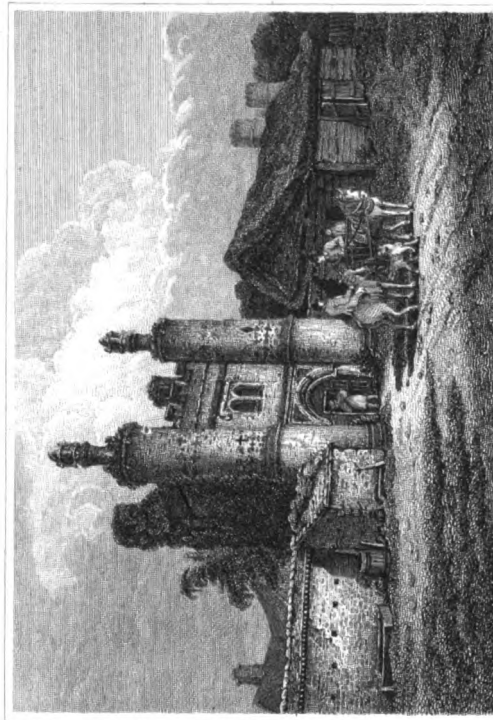
TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS lies north-east of Tolleshunt Magna, and is in our way back towards Colchester. It also bears the name of Little Tolleshunt, in opposition to Tolleshunt Beckingham.

The mansion-house, called *Brook Hall*, stands on the north side of a brook, which occasions the name; it is now the property of Henry Cline, esq.

Mr. Wilkin has lately erected a handsome house in this parish.

The rectory is in the gift of the crown, and the present incumbent, who resides in the rectory-house, is the Rev. C. W. Carwardine.

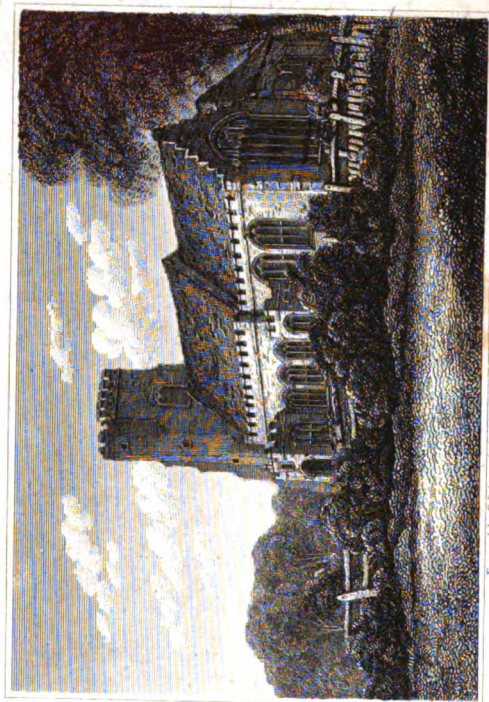
The manor-house of Barnewalden, the property of J. R. Abdy, esq. on the side of a hill about a mile



By J. Roberts, from a Drawing by J. Allen in the Possession of James Russell Esq. of Widdowes for the Engraving through J. Tate.

BECKINGHAM GATE.
Tolleshunt Major.
ESSEX.

Printed by J. Roberts, 10, Pall Mall, London.



Engraved by E. Roberts from a Drawing by J. Long for the Revue des Voyages de la France.
South East View of

LAYER MARNEY CHURCH.
ESSEX.

And Published by Longman & Co. Stationers' Hall.

north-east of the church, has an extensive view of Mersey island and the sea. Some Roman pavements were dug up near this house a few years ago.

We next arrive at LAYER MARNEY, which takes the latter part of its name from the noble family of Marney, who held the manor from the time of Henry II. to that of Henry VIII. William de Marney obtained licence of Henry III. to enclose a park here, "within the precincts of the forest of Essex." He had also liberty of free warren within his manor. Sir Henry Marney was a man of great talents and bravery, and Privy Counsellor to Henry VII. and his son Henry VIII., and was Knight of the Garter and Keeper of the Privy Seal. In 1523 he was also created Lord Marney, but died in the following year, and was buried in the chancel of Layer Marney church.

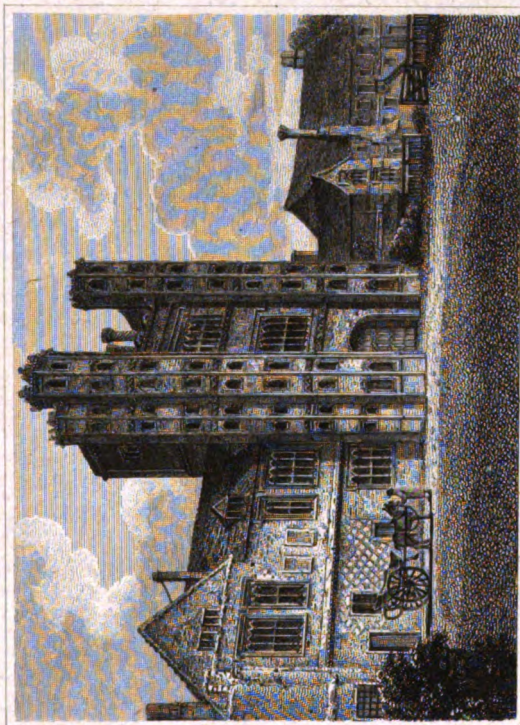
This nobleman, in the year 1500, erected the extensive mansion called Layer Marney Hall, of which the grand entrance tower, and part of the south side, are yet standing. John, the second Lord Marney, died in April 1525, leaving two daughters, who sold this manor to Sir Brian Tuke, secretary to Cardinal Wolsey, of whose descendants it was purchased by Sir Samuel Tryon, bart. It afterwards became the property of Nicholas *Corsellis*, whose family was naturalized in the reign of Charles II. The hall at Layer Marney was originally a large quadrangular building, enclosing a spacious court; the chief entrance to which was the tower gateway remaining. This is built of brick, and consists of a lofty centre of two stories, flanked at each angle by an octagonal tower rising from the ground to some height above the centre. Each of the octagonal towers contains eight floors, lighted by small pointed windows; but the centre stories have two large square ones. The summit, chimneys, and divisions between the windows, are curiously ornamented with brick mouldings of various patterns, on the east

and west sides of this gateway. The remains of this mansion are converted into a farm-house and offices. The tower being situated on high ground, its uppermost stories command a very extensive view to the south, and to the east, of the sea.

In an ancient brick building, about 50 yards from Layer Marney church, William de Marney founded by licence, in 1330, a college for a warden and two chaplains; the latter to officiate in two chantries which he had endowed here with the advowson, and 30 acres of land. The east end of the north aisle, called the chapel, was began by Henry, first Lord Marney, who established the priests here to pray for the souls of his wives, himself, and ancestors. Several fine old monuments, with effigies of the Lords Marney and others of his family, are contained in the church; and in the chancel is a monument to the memory of Nicholas Corsellis, esq. one of the first of that name who possessed this manor, having an inscription, in which it is stated "that he taught the English the admirable art of printing."

Near the church, in the parish of Great Birch, is the artificial mount or keep of a castle, said to have been fortified against Henry III. by Sir Ralph Gernon, who then held the manor; but supposed by Morant to be a continuation of the stupendous Roman works on Lexden Heath, which may be traced still further than this spot. The mount is surrounded by a trench.

A little to the right, but eastward of Layer Marney, is LAYER BRETON, which derived its name from that of one of its ancient possessors, who came over with William the Conqueror, and who probably attended Alan Fergaunt, Earl of Bretagne, at the battle of Hastings, where the latter commanded the rear of William's army. However, the surname of Breton, le Breton; and Brito, is of great antiquity in this county. Here is only one manor, and the mansion-house stands



Drawn & Engraved by J. Gray for the Revue des Arts & Manners.

South Front of

LAYER MARNEY TOWER.

ESSEX.

Published by Longman & Co. Stationers' Hall.

at a little distance west from the church, which is small. Here are the remains of a chapel joined to the chancel. This village is about six miles and a half from Colchester, and nine from Maldon.

LAYER DE LA HAYE took its name from the ancient family of De la Haye; it is five miles from Colchester, and 11 from Maldon. There are three manors in this parish. The mansion belonging to the manor of Layer de la Haye is on the north side of the church, and is large and well built. This was formerly held by Earl Eustace, but came early into the family of De la Haye. The manor of Blindknights was enjoyed by Hugh de Mountford at the time of the survey; the mansion-house stands about a quarter of a mile from the church. This estate was said to be given to the priory of St. Botolph, in Colchester, for the support of certain knights who had lost their eyes and limbs in the crusades. It continued in the possession of this priory till the suppression, and then the manor, rectory, and advowson of the church were granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Audley, Chancellor of England. One of the Audleys mortgaged this with his other estates to J. Smith, esq. of Upton. Layer Cross in this parish is a cluster of houses, where formerly stood a cross.

ABBERTON lies to the east of Layer de la Haye, and is four miles and a half from Colchester.

We next arrive at WEST DONYLAND, or Bere Church. This is one of the four out-parishes within the liberties of the borough of Colchester. West Donyland, as the name imports, lies to the west of the other Donyland, called East, and both names seem to have been formed from a Saxon word signifying hilly or high. East Donyland, in the twelfth century, was given by the Empress Maud to the abbot and convent of St. John's in Colchester. In 1730 the manor and house were purchased by David Gansel of Low Layton, who made a park, and greatly improved the house and gar-

dens. It was afterwards occupied by his son, General Gansel. It has a fine prospect, and stands east of the church; the advowson of which was purchased by General Gansel.

East Donyland Hall is the seat of Philip Havens, esq.; and that of Bere Church, or West Donyland, that of Sir George Henry Smyth, bart.

Having now returned to Colchester, we cross the river Colne and proceed to GREENSTAD, one of the parishes within the liberties of the town of Colchester. The manor anciently belonged to Eudo Dapifer, who settled it upon his foundation of St. John's abbey, with the tythes of the parish. The church stands pleasantly upon an eminence, but contains nothing remarkable. The abbot of St. John's had a park here, and some land, now the property of Lady de Grey.

ARDLEIGH, through which runs the road to Manningtree and Harwich, is situated rather low. The parish contains the manor of *Picotts*, the mansion of which manor is near the church. It is commonly called *Picketts Hall*, and anciently belonged to the noble family of de Ramis, and also the manor of Bovils hall. The mansion-house of the Bovils and Bradvils took its name from some ancient owners, about the reign of Henry II. This is about half a mile south-west of the church.

Moose Hall, vulgarly called *More Hall*, is situated near two miles south-west of Ardleigh church. *Martells Hall*, another mansion, commonly called *Martyns Hall*, stands about three-quarters of a mile south from the church. *Ardleigh Wic* is about a mile and a half west from it. This structure has a stone tower, containing six bells, and a large south porch, handsomely built with a mixture of freestone and flints. Over the front of the porch, in old Saxon characters, is a Latin inscription, thus in English; "Pray for the

sons of John Hunte and his wife Alice; of John and William Hunte."

Leaving Ardleigh, we quit the direct road to notice several villages on the right, between us and the sea; the first is **ELMSTED**, about four miles from Colchester. **Elmsted Hall**, the mansion-house, stands on the south side of the church. **Elmsted Park** was purchased by the governors of the Charter-house many years since. Between the south chapel and the body of the church lies the wooden effigy of a man in complete armour, cross-legged, and drawing his sword, supposed to represent Fitz William or Tany, and is the oldest effigy of that kind in this county. Mr. Hurlock supposed it to be that of Sir John De Mandeville, a knight templar. It has no inscription.

About two miles from Elmsted is **FRATING**. The mansion-house, called *The Hall*, is a large building on the north side of the church, which, though small, has a chapel on the north side, and under the east window a handsome monument erected to Thomas Bendish, esq. of Bumsted Steeple, the owner of Frating manor in 1745.

On a line with Frating is **WIVENHOB** or **WIVENHOE**. This is a populous and respectable village, about two miles south-east of Colchester, and is situated on the acclivity and summit of a pleasant eminence on the north side of the river Colne, of which it commands a good prospect down to Mersey Island.

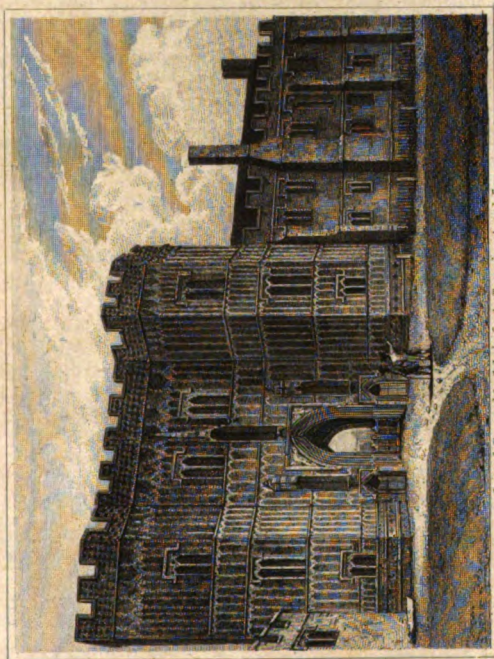
Wivenhoe Hall is pleasantly situated north-west from the village. When this was in the possession of the De Veres, earls of Oxford, it was a large and elegant building, with a fine tower gateway of considerable height, which served as a sea-mark. This seat is now in the possession of the Rev. Nicholas Corsellis. **Wivenhoe Park** is the seat of General Rebow. Opposite to **Wivenhoe Hall** is the residence of — Reid,

esq. At the distance of about a mile and a half from Wivenhoe, is

ALRESFORD, upon a kind of peninsula. Alresford Hall stands a little way from the church, and the Lodge House is about half a mile south-west of it. The church was built by Anfrid, or Anfrey de Staunton, and over his remains in the chancel is an epitaph in old French. About two miles south-east of Alresford is THORINGTON.

Thorington Hall stands near the church. The tower of this, built with a mixture of flint and stone, contains five bells.

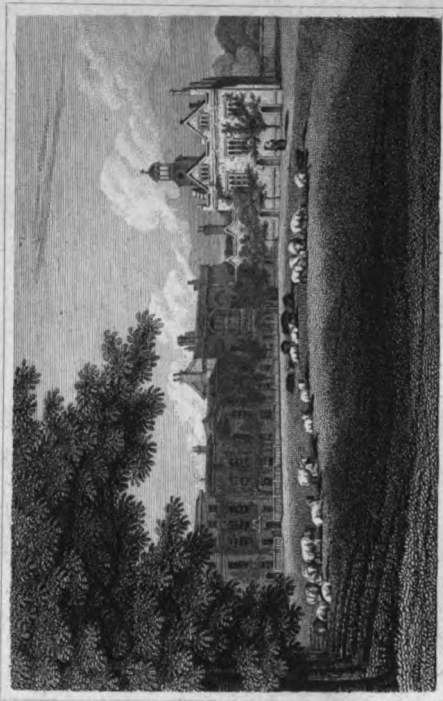
About four miles from Thorington is CHICHE ST. OSYTH. This place, principally remarkable on account of the remains of its noble monastery, derives its name from St. Osyth, daughter of Redoald, king of East Anglia. Having made a vow of virginity, she retired to Chiche, and founded a church and a nunnery. This was afterwards plundered by the Danes, and the royal foundress beheaded near an adjacent fountain. About the year 1118, bishop Belmeis established a priory for Austin canons, on the supposed site of this nunnery. At the dissolution the site of this priory, and various manors belonging to it, were granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Lord Cromwell. The priory afterwards became the seat of Zulestein de Nassau, Earl of Rochford, through his marriage with the daughter of the Hon. Richard Savage. The quadrangle of this building is almost entire, excepting part of the north side, occupied by some modern apartments. The entrance is by a beautiful gateway of hewn stone, mixed with flint, having two towers, and two posterns. The stables and offices on the east and west sides of the court bear marks of great antiquity. To the east are three towers, one larger and loftier than the rest. Among the ivy grown ruins in the



Drawn & Engraved by T. Staley for the Engraver, through J. East.

The Gateway
ST. OSYTH'S PRIORY
ESSEX.

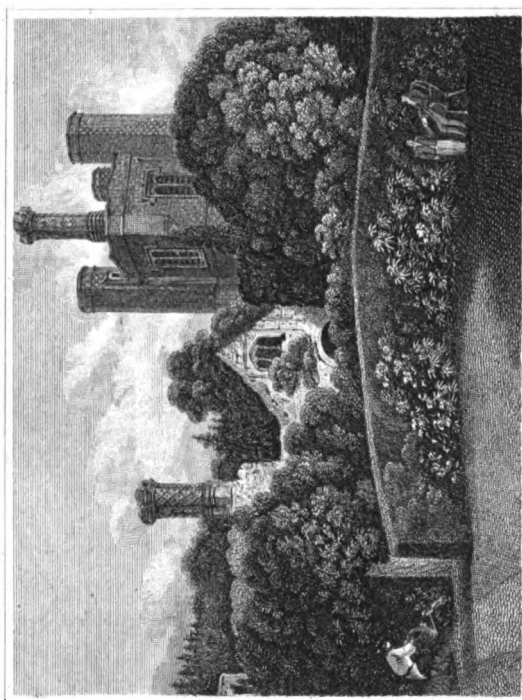
Printed by J. Staley, at the Engraver's & Colliery, in Essex.



Drawn & Engraved by J. Smith for the Association of the Priory.

ST OYSTIN'S PRIORY,
The Seat of F. Nassau, Esq.
ESSEX.

and Sold by J. Smith, at the Priory, & 17, St. Martin's Lane.



Drawn & Engraved by J. G. for the Beauties through Britain.

The Ruins of
ST OMER'S PRIORY,
ESSX.

Published by Longman & Co. in London.

gardens, is a pier, with a Latin inscription expressing the ancient magnificence of the place.

In the church of St. Osyth are several monuments to the memory of the lords D'Arcy. Belmeis, bishop of London, was interred in this church, by the desire of the canons. Besides the priory's manors and estates, there were others in this parish, Chiche and Ridell. St. Cleres, the mansion-house of the latter, is about a quarter of a mile south-east of the church. *Great Frowick Hall* is about a mile and a half north of the church, and to this belongs the north chapel of the chancel, and *Little Frowick* is at a small distance from the former. At St. Osyth is the Priory, the seat of Frederick Nassau, esq. formerly of Lord Rochford, and between Frating and this place Brightlingsea Hall, that of Magens Dorien Magens, esq. Proceeding towards the coast, nearly on a line with St. Osyth, are

THE CLACTONS, Great and Little. These are contiguous. The latter contains Geddy Hall, a modern-built house. Great Clacton is nearest the sea, towards the Gunfleet, about five miles from Thorpe.

Can Hall, in this parish, formerly belonged to the abbot and canons of St. Osyth. Aulton Park is about a mile south-west of the church.

WEELEY is on a line with the Clactons. Weeley Hall, a good house, is pleasantly situated on an eminence, near the church. The Lodge is about half a mile south-west from this edifice. The tower of the church is built of remarkably large bricks, and is embattled. The pulpit, constructed of oak, is very handsome. Extensive barracks were erected here during the late war, but have since been taken down.

The thatched parsonage-house here, about a mile from the church, at the bottom of a little dirty heath, has been noticed as one of the worst in the kingdom.

GREAT and LITTLE HOLLAND lie east of the Clactons, along the sea side. The mansion-house of the latter is

a little to the north of the remains of the church. Great Holland lies to the north of Little Holland. The mansion-house is on the north of the church.

FRINTON is upon the coast, next to Great Holland. Not far from the church is a pretty little house, that belonged to the celebrated Cornelius a Tilbury, who in King William's reign ate so much poison, and survived it. Either this, or another residence on the spot, belonged to the famous Captain Bushel, who was so successful in fishing for wrecks. The sea shore here affords plenty of copperas. Frinton Hall stands on the beach, about half a mile north-east of the ruins of the church.

Proceeding along the sea coast, we pass through THE SOKENS.

THORPE, KIRKBY, and WALTON, are three contiguous villages, north-east of St. Osyth, which compose this district, so called from the peculiar privileges they enjoy. The Sokens is derived from the Saxon *soc* or *soca*, signifying immunity, peculiar privileges and jurisdiction. Among others they claim that no bailiff, except the lord's bailiff, shall arrest any person within this liberty. The wall thrown up to keep out the sea gives the name to Walton parish, within which is a tower of brick, 80 feet high, erected by the Trinity House, upon the promontory called the Nase, as a sea-mark. Thorpe Hall, the mansion-house, is about half a mile south-east from Thorpe church.

Landmer Hall, about a mile and a half north-east of the church, was reckoned the oldest house in the parish, and obtained its name from the flowings of the tide forming what is called a land-mere.

Walton is the furthest of the three Sokens, bounded on the east by the German ocean; and being a long slip of land, the flowing in of the tide makes part of this parish a peninsula. Walton Hall is the mansion-house. The church has been long in ruins, and the

endowment or corps of one of the prebends of St. Paul's cathedral, having been swallowed up long ago, is styled *Præbenda Consumpta per Mare*. Beneath the high cliff, called the Nase, a few years ago, the complete skeleton of a very large animal was discovered bedded in the clay about high water mark. The head, which was enormous, when taken up left a large cavity or bed; and the teeth, some of which were found, measured about seven inches over, and were in appearance like those of the elephant. Similar fragments of animals have been discovered in the cliff at Harwich.

The Great and Little Oakleys lie eastward on the sea side. Great Oakley Hall is above a mile north-east of the church. Oakley Lodge, belonging to the park, is about half a mile from the church. Little Oakley Hall is near the east end of Little Oakley church; the lands belonging to it formerly made one half of the parish. It has belonged to the Filiols, the De Veres, the D'Arcies, &c. Pewit Island belongs to this parish, and has its name from the number of these birds that come and breed here in the spring.

Returning towards the high road, we notice

BEAUMONT and **MOSE**, which are north of the Sokens. Here is the manor of Old Hall and New Hall. The mansion-house is on the north side of the church. Here was formerly a park, and this manor has the royalty of fishing in Hunckford Water and Oylford Bed. The old mansion-house of Mose Hall stands near the water side; New Mose Hall is near the ruins of the church, in a bottom. The church of Mose formerly stood behind Old Mose Hall; the site is now an orchard. The church of Beaumont is pleasantly situated on a hill.

TENDRING contains the manor of Old Hall, and the mansion-house, which is a little way north-west from the church. Brett's Hall is about half a mile south

from the church. The church of Tendring stands on an eminence, with a fine slope towards the south : it contains an old monument of Sir John Drury, but no inscription is legible.

Leaving Tendring, we come to GREAT BENTLEY, part of which extends to a creek that runs into the river Colne. The mansion-house is on the north side of the church, which is very pleasantly situated on the side of a beautiful green. The church is partly ceiled, the chancel not at all. A curious custom once existed in the manor of Great Bentley that the lord should make choice of the wives for his copyhold tenants. The manor now belongs to W. W. Francis, esq. of Colchester.

LITTLE BENTLEY is situated north of Great Bentley. Little Bentley Hall stands on the south side of the church. In the reign of Edward II. this belonged to a family named Le Gros ; but Paul Bayning, who was a citizen and alderman of London, and one of the sheriffs in the year 1593, new built Bentley Hall, which was still more improved by his successors. In the reign of James I. the Earl of Oxford and his lady caused the stately and magnificent seat of Bentley Hall to be pulled down, and the materials being sold, served to embellish many of the houses in Colchester and elsewhere. The present building is in a ruinous condition. The church contains a vault for the Bayning family. In the chancel lies buried Sir William Pyrton, knight, a brave warrior, captain of Guisnes, in Normandy. He died July 1, 1490.

The places remaining between us and the high road are GREAT and LITTLE BROMLEY, which are about eight miles from Colchester. The latter was held in Edward the Confessor's reign, by Queen Edeva ; and at the time of the Domesday survey, by Walter the Deacon, and Richard Fitz-Gislibert. The manor-

house of Little Bromley stands near the church, and is called Church-Hall. This manor belonged to Walter the Deacon, who was the ancestor of the noble family of De Hastings.

Braham Hall, commonly called Breame Hall, or otherwise Nether Hall, is in this parish.

GREAT BROMLEY. This place lies to the south of Little Bromley. The Hall, which is the mansion-house, was some years since occupied by Lord Donegall, and is near the churchyard. The noble family of De Vere were lords paramount of this place many years. The mansion-house of the manor of Cold Hall is about three quarters of a mile south of the church. The church is an elegant structure, consisting of a body and two aisles, and the chancel has a chapel called the Patron's chapel. The roof of the church is lofty, and of curious workmanship. Many images and much painted glass here have been destroyed. Great Bromley Hall was lately the seat of John Hanson, esq. and Great Bromley Lodge is that of H. N. Jarrett, esq.

Proceeding on the high road, at a small distance on the right, is DEDHAM, about seven miles from Colchester, pleasantly situated in a vale, through which runs the river Stour, with a very good bridge across it. Dedham was a famous clothing town as early as the reign of Richard II. Here is but one principal street, which, however, contains several good houses and inns. The trade of this town has greatly decayed, but it is now chiefly remarkable for the gentility of its neighbourhood; many respectable families residing in its vicinity. Here is a free grammar school, founded about 1570, and endowed for the education of 20 scholars, by William Littlebury, gent. The governors of this school were incorporated by Queen Elizabeth.

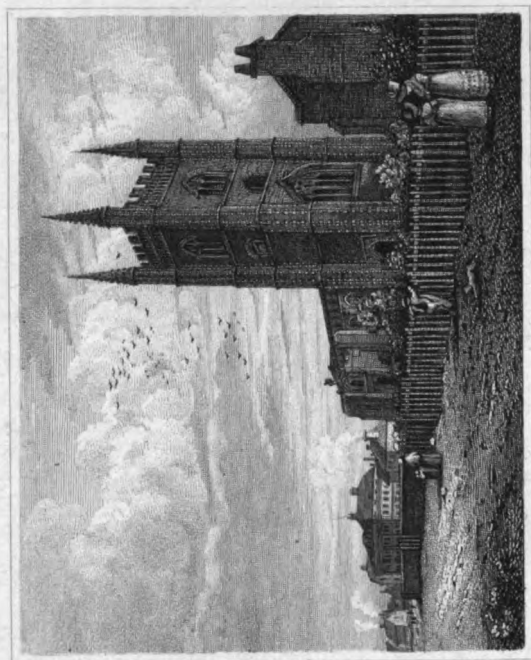
The manors of Over Hall and Nether Hall, at present but one, were formerly two and distinct. The manor-house of Over Hall, now quite decayed, stood in a

field near the road, towards Langham, and Nether Hall is only a cottage, on Princely Green. The church is a spacious gothic building. The tower, 131 feet high, seems to have been erected on the foundations of a former one. The roof of the arch underneath is handsomely decorated with the arms of the families of York and Lancaster, and red and white roses; from whence it is concluded that the steeple was rebuilt after the union of those two houses: On the east side of the battlements there is a statue of Margaret, Countess of Richmond, and coronets all round. A mural monument in the interior of this church exhibits the figure of a man preaching, with this inscription in Latin, "John Rogers here expects the resurrection which he preached.—Oct. 18, An. Dom. 1639, aged 65."

The principal gentlemen's seats at Dedham, at this time, are those of the Rev. James Thomas Hurlock, D.D.; W. B. Goodrich, esq. at the Rookery; Alderman Manning, esq.; H. Warren, esq. at the Grove; — Mumford, esq.; Peter Firmin, esq.; William Webb, esq. at the Lecture House; Rev. Thomas Grimwood Taylor, at the Vicarage; Rev. Alexander Richardson, at the Grammar School.

Nearly on a line with Dedham is **LANGHAM**. Langham Hall stands a little to the north-west of the church, and is situated upon an eminence, commanding a beautiful prospect; this is the residence of the Rev. Isaac R. Boggis. Langham Valley is a delightful situation. Here was formerly a capital house called Wenlocks, from the younger branch of the noble family of that name, in Shropshire, who lived here from the time of Henry III. till the reign of Charles II.

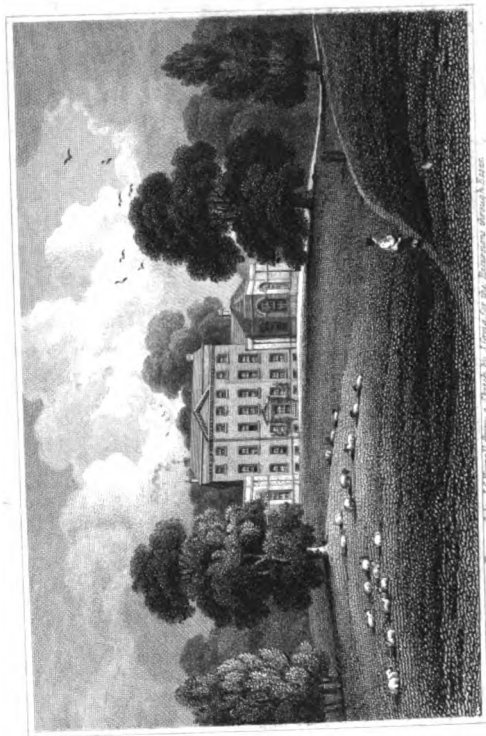
Pursuing the direct road from Ardleigh to Manningtree, to the north-east of this place is **LAWFORD**. The mansion-house is at a small distance from the church, and has a fine prospect to the north. The ancient part



Designed by J. Adams, from a sketch by J. G. Jones, for the engraver, Henry A. Scott.

DEDHAM CHURCH, ESSEX.

Published by J. G. Jones, by Longman & Co. Stationers, London.



Engraved by J. C. Merrall, from a Sketch by J. Long for the Entrance of the House of Commons.

MYSTICITY ISLAND.

The Seat of the 'Highway.'

ESSAY.

And a Description of the 'Highway' and the 'Highway'.

of it was built by Edward Waldegrave, esq. in 1583; but this was taken down and rebuilt by Edward Green, esq.

Dale Hall is about half a mile east from the church, and received its name from a family of the name of Dale. The mansion of Abbot's Lawford is on the south side of the church.

MANNINGTREE has long been noticed as a small irregular town, on the southern bank of the river Stour. Though only a chapelry to Mistley parish, it has the privilege of a market, held on Tuesdays, with an annual fair on Whit Thursday. The town contains 217 houses, and 1075 inhabitants. At the Domesday survey it was held by Adeliza, Countess of Albemarle, half sister to William the Conqueror. It afterwards became the property of Maud de Clare, Countess of Hereford and Gloucester, who bestowed the manor on the nunnery of the order of St. Augustine, at Canon-Leigh in Devonshire. After the dissolution, Manningtree, called in the grant, *Many Tree*, alias Scidinghoo, was given by Henry VIII. to Sir John Rainsforth, and has descended from him in the same manner as Mistley Hall. The river Stour was made navigable from this town to Sudbury in Suffolk, by an act passed in the fourth and fifth of Queen Anne. Its principal imports are deals, corn, coals, iron, and fish. Here was formerly a guild, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. In the certificate of Chantry lands, Manningtree is called "a great towne, and also a haven towne, having in yt to the number of 700 howseling people."

MISTLEY lies to the east of Manningtree. The Hall stands on an eminence, and was built by Richard Rigby, esq. and much improved by his son. It is now the seat of F. Hale Rigby, esq. The manor was anciently held by the wife of Henry de Ramis. It was originally called Old Hall, but it is not known where the mansion stood; however, from its ruins

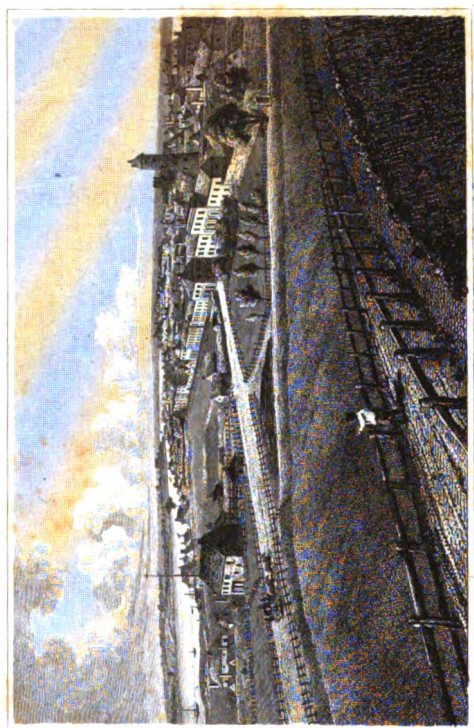
another rose, called New Hall, about two miles south of Mistley church. This church, some years ago, was much altered and improved, after the designs of the Adams'. The view hence up the Stour, the woody cliff to the right, and the spacious quay, form a delightful scene at sunrise.

Our next stage is BRADFIELD. The mansion-house here, which is large, was the seat of the Harbottle and Grimston families, and is about three quarters of a mile south-west of the church. Nether Hall is about half a mile north from the church, near the river. At a small distance to the right of Bradfield is

WICKES. Here, near Wics Park Hall, built by the Vesey, formerly was a nunnery, and Pond Hall stands about half a mile north of the church.

WRABNESS lies to the left of Bradfield, and the parish forms part of a promontory. This place is about seven miles from Harwich.

Passing along the road towards Harwich, we arrive at RAMSEY, situated between Wrabness, Oakley, and Dover Court. It is bounded on the north by the river Stour or channel; part of it is a peninsula called the *Ray*. Roydon Hall, the manor-house, stands about two miles west of the church, and at a small distance from this is Ramsey Hall. The earliest notice of this is that it belonged to John Herde in 1599. Michelstow Hall was made a handsome seat about half a century since, and is now the seat of Lewes Peak Garland, esq. The manor-house of East New Hall is about three quarters of a mile north from the church. It has been sometimes called East Hall, and like the other estates in this parish it was held of the Earls of Oxford, except during their attainder under Edward IV. The manor of *Rey*, or *Le Rey*, lies in the peninsula formed by the influx of the tide, in the north part of Ramsey. The mansion-house is about a mile north-east of the church. Here was formerly a chapel



Designed by H. B. P. for the Swansea through the town.

SWANSEA
SWANSEA

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dedicated to St. Peter. A family surnamed *De Ruly* held this manor under the earls of Oxford, during several reigns previous to Edward III. Foulton Hall, another manor-house here, is about three quarters of a mile from the church: the earliest possessors of this manor upon record are the Filyole family. On the west side of a creek into which the tide comes up, there are a number of houses, called *Ramley-street*, and over this creek a bridge, on the high road to Harwich, is kept in repair at the charge of the county. In the hamlet of Foulton was a chapel, which has been long demolished, but previous to which the vicar of the parish was obliged to perform divine service in it.

DOVER COURT. This place, one mile from Harwich, was in the Catholic times very famous for a miraculous rood or crucifix in the church, which in the year 1532 was taken away in the night and burnt, by four Protestants. For this act, denominated felony and sacrilege, three of them were apprehended, and hanged in different parts of the county. The elms that grow in this parish are remarkable for the durability of the agricultural implements constructed out of them.

To conclude our first excursion, we have only to notice

HARWICH. This populous sea-port and market town is situated at the north extremity of the county of Essex, on a point of land; bounded on the east by the sea, on the north by the estuaries of the Orwell and the Stour, and consists of three principal streets, and various lanes, branching off in different directions. This town contains 564 houses, and 3732 inhabitants. The market day is held on Friday, and a fair annually, on the 1st of May and the 18th of October. Formerly this town had several gates, and was surrounded by walls; there was also a castle, and several small forts or block-houses: the former have

been long destroyed, and the sites of the latter covered by the sea. Some fortifications on the land side have lately been formed, and the entrance of the harbour is well protected by Landguard Fort. The principal buildings, the church excepted, are the town-hall, rebuilt about half a century since, the gaol, the school-house, and the custom-house. The local government is vested in a mayor, eight aldermen, 24 capital burgesses, a recorder, and several inferior officers.

The name of Harwich is derived from the Saxon, *here*, an army, and *wic*, a castle or fortification. From these words it is inferred that a Saxon army was stationed here to prevent the descent of invaders. It is also supposed that the Romans had a very considerable station near this place, as the remains of an ancient camp of considerable extent may still be traced. On one side the rampart is in several places from 10 to 12 feet high, and the ditch, though in a great degree filled up, is six feet deep, and nearly 40 feet wide. The high road leading to it and to the town is called *The Street*. Several Roman coins have been found here, and Morant mentions a tessellated pavement, discovered in a small farm belonging to the vicarage of Dover Court.

The first notice that we find of Harwich occurs in the Saxon Chronicle, in which it is stated that a battle was fought at the mouth of the Stour, between Alfred's fleet and 16 Danish ships, which were defeated, and every sail taken; but in a second engagement, which occurred soon after, with a more powerful fleet of the enemy, the English were worsted. Harwich had very little importance as a town till after the time of the conquest, and its first considerable increase arose from the decay of Orwell, which is said to have stood on the west rocks, and to have been overwhelmed by the action of the sea, together with a large adjoining

tract of land. It was made a borough corporate by Edward II. through the influence of Thomas de Brotherton, and it became a market town by charter, in the year 1318. The present charter, securing more ample privileges, was granted by James I. when the power of returning two members to parliament, which had been discontinued from the 17th of Edward III., was also restored, the right of election being invested in the corporate officers.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and was founded about the commencement of the 13th century, by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. Among other monuments, it contains one of good workmanship, to the memory of Sir William Clarke, knight, secretary of war to Charles II., who in June, 1666, was mortally wounded in the memorable sea fight between the fleets of the English and Dutch, commanded by the Duke of Albemarle and the famous Admiral de Ruyter.

The inhabitants of Harwich have been chiefly supported by ship-building, and various maritime employments. The yard for building and repairing ships is very convenient and well furnished, with store-houses, launches, &c. Here several third rates have been built, besides other vessels of considerable burden. The harbour is deep and spacious, and the anchorage good. Upwards of 100 sail of men of war, with frigates, and between 3 and 400 colliers, are recorded to have been riding here at one time, without endangering each other. For the safe guidance of vessels into this harbour, a light-house has been erected on a hill below the town. The number of smacks employed here in the North Sea fishery has been estimated at 3,000 tons, employing about 500 seamen. In time of peace the inhabitants of Harwich derive considerable advantage from the number of passengers that stop here on their way to and from Holland and Germany:

this being the station of the packets between those countries and England. The town of Harwich has risen into considerable importance during the last war, in consequence of its having been almost the only place of communication between this country and the north of Europe. Harwich was the usual place of embarkation and landing of William III. and George I. and II. on their respective journeys to and from the continent: her present majesty also landed here upon her first arrival in this country from Mecklenburgh.

Harwich, as a watering place, is not deficient in celebrity. Till lately, private baths, covered over, and filled by the influx of the tide, were in common use here; but since bathing machines have become so much in fashion, the preference of course has been given to them. There is a pleasant walk to a high spot of land opposite the mouth of the Orwell, and Landguard Fort, and thence a commanding view of a vast expanse of ocean. During the period of the late war, this town had a camp in its vicinity. The position chosen for this camp was on the right of the road leading into Harwich, about half a mile from the town, on an elevated dry spot, the main ocean in front, within 20 yards of the quarter-guard tent; in the rear an arm of the sea that joins Manningtree and Ipswich rivers; on the left the town of Harwich; forming together one of the most picturesque scenes imaginable. There are eight large wherries or passage-boats which sail daily with passengers and goods, (Sundays excepted) at the time of high water, from Ipswich, distant 12 miles, and from Mistley and Manningtree, also distant 12 miles, and return again about half flood. Here are also convenient ferry boats, at any hour, from Harwich across the harbour to Shotley and Walton in Suffolk, each place distant about two miles. Aquatic parties are frequently formed at Har-

wich : an excursion up the Orwell, whose banks are studded with handsome villas and pleasure grounds, is one of the most favourite recreations. Sailing up the Stour is also frequently practised.

On the south side of the town is a cliff which divides Orwell haven from the bay that extends to Walton Nase ; this contains many acres of land, and its greatest height is about 50 feet : at the bottom is a stratum of clay, of a blueish colour, about one foot thick, which is succeeded by a stratum of stone, nearly of the same colour and thickness ; within this some fossil shells and petrifications are embedded ; above the stone are various strata of clay similar to that before mentioned, rising to the height of 20 feet. The streets of Harwich are mostly paved with masses of this clay, which have fallen from the cliff, and have been hardened by exposure to the air and salt water ; the walls of the town also appear, from their remains, to have been formed of this substance. Within two feet of the surface of this clay are different strata of fine sand, and stone and gravel, mixed with small pebbles, and blended with fossil shells of the bivalve and turbinate kinds. These are sometimes found separate, and sometimes in lumps and masses, mingled with sand and other adventitious bodies. The surface of this cliff is a common sandy earth, in which a few veins of a white friable substance, supposed to be talc, resembling isinglass, have been found. Various teeth of large animals, and bones of an extraordinary size, discovered in fallen masses of this cliff, have been by some writers ignorantly supposed as belonging to the elephants brought into this country by the Roman emperor Claudius, in the year 43.

Harwich has been considerably improved within these few years. A new road has been made leading to the town, which has been of great advantage to the entrance. New barracks have been erected ; and a

tower, or fortress, which was several years building, and constructed at a great expense, on an eminence by the side of the road, is a striking object. This fortress is protected by works under ground, bomb proof; and the whole is surrounded by a wide and deep ditch, with a drawbridge. A new guard-house and an armory have also been erected; and two new light-houses, lately built in the room of the old ones, are worthy the attention of travellers, as is also the new cement manufactory. The packets for the Continent with the foreign mails sail on Wednesdays and Fridays from Harwich, which is $71\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from London.

Landguard Fort completely commands the entrance of the harbour, which though between two and three miles wide at high water, is too shallow to admit the passage of ships, excepting by a narrow and deep channel on the Suffolk side. At some distance from the fort, on a spot called by Bishop Gibson, *Walton*, or *Felixstow Castle*, various fragments of urns, coins, and other Roman antiquities, have been dug up at different times. Landguard Fort, immediately opposite to Harwich, and at the south-east end of the county of Suffolk, is still considered as belonging to Essex. This is a strong fortification, erected for the defence and security of this harbour in the reign of James I. It is built upon a point of land united to Walton Colness, but so surrounded by the sea at high water as to become an island nearly a mile from the shore. According to local tradition, the outlets of the Stour and the Orwell were anciently on the north side, through Walton Marshes in Suffolk, and the place called the *Fleets* was a part of the original channel. This is probably true, as the violence of the sea, and the strength of the land floods, have effected great changes on the coast.

EXCURSION II.

From Chelmsford through Moulsham, Widford, Stisted, Margaretting - street, Ingatestone, Mountnessing - street, Shenfield, Brentwood, Brook-street, Hare-street, Romford, Chadwell-street, Ilford, to Stratford.

THE first place we arrive at on our present route, on quitting Chelmsford, is

WIDFORD. This village evidently derived its name from the width of the ford before a bridge was built over the river. Widford manor, for it contains but one, was in the possession of Edward of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, in the year 1329, the sixth son of King Edward I. who was beheaded for contriving the deliverance of the captive King Edward II. It was given to Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, and from his family passed to the Clovilles, and from them to Charles Altham, serjeant at law, who in the year 1604 built the chapel adjoining the north side of the church. A little beyond Widford bridge, about a quarter of a mile from the road, on the right hand side going from Chelmsford to Ingatestone, is the house called *Highlands*, from its eminent situation, commanding several good prospects. It was erected by Sir John Comyns, knight, chief baron of the exchequer, and is now the seat of P. C. Labouchere, esq. who has made very great additions to the house and grounds.

On the west side of the road stands the church, a small but ancient building, consisting of a nave and

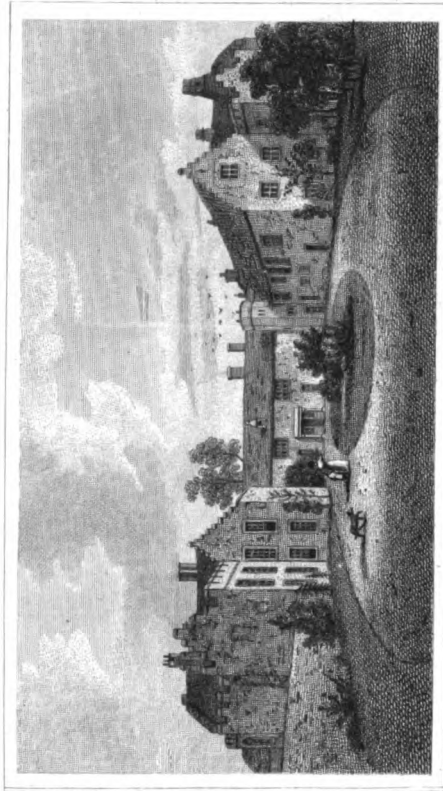
chancel. The chapel on the north side belongs to the lords of the manor. The gable between the church and the chancel is thicker than usual.

We next arrive at MARGARETTING-STREET.

This village takes its name from the saint to which the church is dedicated. The principal manor was held in the year 1166 by John de Sandford, and came by marriage to the family of the De Veres. Coptfold Hall, the seat of W. Vachel, esq. is situated on an eminence, and commands an extensive view over Gallywood Common, Stock, &c. This mansion belonged to the Countess of Oxford in the year 1360, and to William Cheyne, esq. in 1371. About a mile from Margarettng, on the opposite side of the road, is

FRIERNING, so called from the Friar's Pasture, situated on the right hand side of the road from Chelmsford to Stratford. The church contains some ancient inscriptions.

Nearly joining to Margarettng is INGATESTONE. This village is supposed to have derived its name from a Roman miliary, or mile-stone, which conjecture had placed near the Red Lion inn, and partly from the Saxon *ing*, a meadow, forming together, *ing atte stone*. Here was formerly a considerable market, which has totally fallen off within the last 50 years, but a very large fair for cattle is still held annually, on the 1st of December. The church contains several elaborate monuments of the Petre family, whose burial-place adjoins the chancel on the north side. An altar monument to the memory of Lord William Petre and his lady has their effigies upon it, finely wrought in Parian marble. Another splendid monument, composed of various kinds of marble, commemorates the virtues and abilities of John, Lord Petre, son to the above, whose effigies, with that of his lady, are represented kneeling. Near the village is an alms-house for seven women and three men, founded by Sir William Petre in the year



Engraved by Adam from a Sketch by T. Barker for the Engraving through Stone.

NEWCASTLE STONE HALL.

The property of the R^{ts} Hon^{ble} Lord Howe.

F. S. J. R. N.

Printed and Published by J. Johnson & Co. Stationers, 172, Strand, London.

1557, and endowed by him to the amount of 90*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* annually.

Ingatestone Hall, a venerable but irregular pile, in a low situation, near the village, was the residence of the Lords Petre before the present mansion at West Thorndon was erected. The grounds are stored with fish-ponds, and the whole was formerly surrounded by a park. In this parish is a very good modern house called the *Hide*, built by Timothy Brand, esq. high sheriff for this county in 1721, late the residence of Dr. Disney, and now of his son John Disney, esq.; and nearly adjoining the *Hide* is *Masonetts*, the seat of — Hayes, esq. There is likewise a large ancient house upon *Mill Green*.

Turning to the left, at about five miles distant from the high road, are the Hanningfields.

HANNINGFIELD EAST is about seven miles from Chelmsford. This village contains nothing remarkable. *Hanningfield West* was anciently a part of the possessions of the noble William Warren, Earl of Surrey, in whom it was found vested at the time of the grand survey. Contiguous to the church is a good house called *Church House*, formerly the seat of some of the Humfrys; and this parish was once the residence of John, son of John, the first Lord Petre. The church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Edward, contains a few ancient inscriptions, and the parsonage is a good brick residence, standing about a quarter of a mile from the church.

Passing over East Hanningfield and Bycknacre commons, leaving Hazeleigh on our left, and Purleigh on our right, we next arrive at

MUNDON, situated between Lalling and Maldon river, or Blackwater bay, abutting north towards Northey island, and on the western side of a creek called Mundon Creek, which separates it from Steeple. Eudo Dapifer held this manor at the time of the sur-

vey, but gave that and the advowson of the church to St. John's abbey in Colchester. The manor came at length to Thomas Western, esq. of Rivenhall, and is now the property of C. C. Western, esq. Mundon Hall, the manor-house, stands a little way north of the church. It is remarkable that all the grave-stones in this church, anterior to the year 1772, are defaced. Proceeding along the shore of the Blackwater, towards the ocean, we next observe

STEEPLE with STANGATE, both to the east of Mundon, having on the north Maldon river; the adjacent isle of Ramsey is also in the parish of Steeple. From Domesday book it appears that the original name of this place was *Ulfwine's Cherche*, which being thought too long, was changed into that of *Steeple*, seeming to imply that the neighbouring churches were without this ornament. Steeple Hall, the manor-house, is on the north side of the church. The manor, some years since, became the property of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

STANGATE is a hamlet in this parish, near the water, being a kind of peninsula. The name implies a stone gate, but what really gave rise to it does not appear at present, though it was most probably a kind of landing-place from the water. A priory for Cluniac monks was founded here before the year 1106, and a cell to the priory of Lewes. The church of Steeple is a mean building. The church, or as it is called, the chapel of Stangate, is converted into a barn.

Nearly adjoining is Ramsey Island.

ST. LAURENCE is also on the north side of Maldon river, or Blackwater Bay. Here are the manors of East and West Newland Hall. St. Laurence Hall stands on the south side of the church.

ASHELDAM, bordering on the sea, lies north of Southminster, about twelve miles from Maldon. Asheldam Hall stands at a small distance south-east of the church,

and New Hall, otherwise *Brockholes*, is a little way east of it. In this church are many niches and places where holy water was formerly kept. The bridge called *Moor Bridge* divides this parish from Southminster. The lord of the manor finds timber for the reparation of this bridge, and the tenant of Moor Farm defrays the expense of the labour.

Proceeding in the same direction, at about two miles distance, we observe TILLINGHAM. This village is very near the sea shore. About this place it has been remarked, "the roads are good, as is also the water, a thing not very common in these parts." Tillingham Hall stands on the north side of the church. Tillingham Grange is near two miles south-east of the church, in the marshes. The church was rebuilt in 1708, by a pound rate on the inhabitants. It has a gallery at the west end, and is handsomely pewed. The tower is of stone, and contains five bells. The edifice stands on a dry rising ground, and the walls are remarkably thick. In the south aisle of the chancel are four niches or arches, in one of which is a brass plate, by which it appears that Edward Wyatt, esq. who died in July 1584, is buried there. He is represented kneeling, with a book before him, &c. In the churchyard, an epitaph upon the wife of John Sewel, who died in childbed in Nov. 1766, aged 25, mentions that she was the fifth sister who experienced a similar fate.

The only remaining place between us and the ocean is Bradwell.

BRADWELL, bounded on the north-east by the German Ocean, and on the north by Blackwater Bay, or Fluvius Indumanus, has, in order to distinguish it from Bradwell near Coggeshall, the addition of *Juxta Mare*, and *Juxta Tillingham*, viz. near Tillingham and the sea. We do not meet with the name of this parish in Domesday book, but have *Effsecestre*, formed from Eth or Effe, a contraction of the word *Oithona*, with

the addition of Cestre, which the Saxons generally affixed to places where there had been Roman *castra*, camps or stations. That *Othona* stood here, we have the authority of the best historians, particularly Mr. Camden. "Higher up, (than Tillingham) toward the northern shore, stood once a flourishing city, called by our ancestors Ithancester. For thus Bede and Ralph Niger, monk of Coggeshall, tell us; 'Cedda built churches in several places, ordaining priests and deacons to assist him in the word of faith and ministry of baptizing, especially in the city which in the language of the Saxons is called Ithancester, which stood upon the bank of the river Pant, that runs near Maldon, in the province of Dengy; but that city hath since been swallowed up in the river Pant.' I cannot, adds Mr. Camden, exactly point out the place, but that the river *Froshwell* was heretofore called *Pant*, I am pretty confident, because one of its springs still keeps the name of Pant's Well, and the monk of Coggeshall, speaking of it, uses the same appellation. Some think this Ithancester to have been seated in the utmost point of Dengy hundred, where stands at present St. Peter's on the Wall. I am inclined to believe that this Ithancester was the same as *Othona*, the station of the band of the *Fortenses*, with their provost, in the declension of the Roman empire, who were placed here under the Count of the Saxon Shore, to secure the coast; for *Othona* might very easily press into *Ithana*, and the situation, in a creek at the mouth of many rivers, was very convenient for such a design. Pileman Holland informs us, that here were the remains of a huge ruin of a thick wall, near which many Roman coins had been found. Upon good grounds, therefore, this is concluded to have been Effeciote."

The rectory-house, or Bradwell Lodge, was erected by the Rev. Sir H. B. Dudley, and stands near the brook of Tillingham, a mile and a half from the

church. The manor of Battails was so called from its owner, Emeric Battaile, who died in 1252. Dounhall, another manor-house, gave its name to John de la Dune, about the year 1254. East Hall, in this parish, belongs to New College, Oxford. Bradwell church has a lofty spire, which is shingled, and from it is a fine sea prospect. The tower contains eight bells. On the spot which is now the north-east point of this hundred of Dengey stood a chapel, anciently called *Capella de la Val*, or St. Peter ad Murum. It has been long in ruins, and its remains converted into a barn.

We shall now return towards the high road, noticing all the remaining places between the Blackwater and Crouch rivers. The first place on our way is Dengey.

Dengey, about 13 miles from Maldon. This village is situated between Southminster and Tillingham. *Danes ig*, or island, was the origin of this name. Dengey Hall stands near the west end of the church, and the manor-house of Bacons is about half a mile north of it. Here is a fine prospect of the sea from the churchyard.

About three miles to the south-west is situated **SOUTH MINSTER**, or South Church, about 10 miles from Maldon, is supposed to have been so called on account of the bearing of that church with respect to those of Tillingham and Dengey. The houses here form two streets. Before and after the conquest this was the Bishop of London's land and estate. King Canute deprived the bishops of this manor, but William, the bishop, recovered it in the Conqueror's time. The mansion-house of Cage is nearly a mile west of the church, and the manor was several years in the possession of the Fitz Walter family. The *Ray*, a messuage and marsh in this parish, was assigned by King Henry VIII. to his forsaken queen, Anne of Cleve. The church of Southminster is large and

well built, the chancel having been re-erected with brick. The tower contains five bells. On the wall at the east end of a chapel in Southminster Hall yard, many years since turned into a barn, was lately the following; Anno incarnationis 1573, capella ædificata in memoriam Beatæ M. V.

Three miles south of this place lies BURNHAM, containing 194 houses and 1056 inhabitants: it has two annual fairs, and is situated in the south-east corner of Dengy hundred, adjoining to the river Crouch. This town has a good street towards the river, and a commodious quay. John Fitzwalter had the grant of a weekly market on Tuesday at his manor of Burnham, and also one fair yearly, from the 13th to the 16th of September, inclusive. The church is about a mile south from the town, and north of this is Burnham Hall. The tower of Burnham church being a sea-mark, was rebuilt after having been blown down in the great high wind. It contains five bells. The altar-piece here is neat, and the painting of the Last Supper said to be well executed. The Apostles are placed over the arches which divide the aisles. The carving on the pulpit and upon the font are worthy of notice. In the windows of the north chapel, called the chantry, and in several others of the church, are the arms of Fitzwalter. Over the south porch these and others are cut in stone, with a defaced inscription. There are very considerable oyster beds in the Crouch, which occasion a considerable communication between this place and Holland.

CRICKSEA is also situated on the river Crouch, and here is a ferry into Rochford hundred. *Cricksea Hall* is near the east end of the church, and *Cricksea Place* about three quarters of a mile to the south-east of it. "This was formerly of great note; here was a pleasant park well stored with timber; it had an outer court, or grand entrance, part of which, with the

ponds, walls, &c. remain." The church has neither steeple nor bell. To the north of this place, and in a line with it, are Althorn and Mayland.

ALTHORN is about eight miles from Maldon. From the church-steeple here is a very good prospect into the Swin, as also of Tiptree heath, Danbury, Langdon Hills, part of Kent, and all Rochford hundred. *Althorn Hall* is a little way south of the church; and the house called *Althorn Barns* is a little to the west.

MAYLAND, situated about six miles and a half from Maldon, and to the south of Steeple, was probably forest in the Conqueror's time, and belonging to Althorn, or rather to Southminster. In records it is written Meilanda. May seems to be derived from a word signifying pasture. *Mayland Hall*, the manor-house, is at a little distance south of the church. This manor was part of the endowment of St. Osyth's monastery. Little Bicknacre, alias Bicknacre Barns, in Mayland, were granted in 1589 to Robert Wroth and William Wiseman. The church is small, but pleasantly situated on an eminence.

A road from Althorn leads us to

LATCHINGDON. Here at a small distance east of the church we find *Tiled Hall*, the most ancient owners of which were the Grapenell family previous to the year 1335. *Lalling Hall* stands two miles north-east of Latchingdon church. The manor-house, called *Hill House*, in the south part of this parish, has been occupied as a farm-house for a considerable number of years.

On a line with this village is

SNOREHAM, which has generally been described as a manor-house by the name of *Snoreham Hall*. Of the church, which was built by some of the noble family of Grey of Wilton, there are only some remains near the hall yard. However, this is still a rectory representative. A sermon was formerly preached annually

under a tree in the parish, but has been since discontinued. The present rector is the Rev. Tho. Ffoote Gower.

COLD NORTON is so called to distinguish it from Norton Mandeville, near Ongar. This place is about two miles to the west of Latchingdon. *Cold Norton Hall* stands close to the churchyard on the south-east side. *Flambards* is another manor-house, above a mile and a half north-west from the church; this was in possession of Sir John Browne, Lord Mayor of London, in 1480. In the churchyard is the tomb of William Walker, esq. justice of the peace, who died Dec. 9, 1708, in the 68th year of his age. "He lived at Cold Norton Hall, where his great grandfather, grandfather, and father, all of the same name, lived many years, and are all buried in this grave."

A road from this village leads us to

NORTH FAMBRIDGE, about seven miles from Maldon on the north side of the river Crouch. The hall stands near the east end of the church. Mr. Salmon mentions a female huntress in his time who had been seen to swim her horse over the ferry from South Fambridge during a chase.

About three miles from North Fambridge, but rather to the north, is

STOW MAREYS, a little to the south-west of Norton; but the manor-house, which belonged to the noble family of Bohun, is about three quarters of a mile south-west of the church. The mansion-house of the manor of *Hayes* is about the same distance south of the church as Mareys; this anciently belonged to the Sutton family.

Nearly two miles to the west we see

WOODHAM FERRERS. The latter of these names is evidently derived from the noble family who possessed the chief part of this parish. Henry de Ferrers held this manor at the time of the survey. His youngest

son, Robert, succeeded him, and was created Earl of Derby by King Stephen, in the year 1138, for his unparalleled courage and bravery at the battle of the Standard, in Yorkshire, against David, King of Scotland. The manor-house is very near the church. A venerable mansion-house, situated on a small eminence, about a mile from the church, and commanding an excellent prospect, was formerly the seat of a branch of the Mildmay family. *Edwin's Hall*, about the same distance from the church, was built by Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York, from whom it derived its name.

The hamlet of BYCKNACRE is partly in this parish and partly in that of Danbury. The history of the priory of Bycknacre has been given in p. 34, 35, but it must be added that the remains of this religious house are seen on the right hand of the road from Danbury to Woodham Ferrers. The chapel at one end of it has long been demolished. Some of the arches of the house, of a lofty and magnificent description, still remain. It has been asserted, though with what degree of certainty it cannot at present be ascertained, that a considerable part of this priory was built after the dissolution.

Previous to the founding of Bycknacre Priory, here was a hermitage which Henry II. granted to the monks of this place. The church was also given them by Robert, Earl of Ferrers, in the same reign. On the right hand of the communion table is a very handsome monument to the memory of Cecilie, wife to Edwin, Archbishop of York. It was erected as a testimony of filial affection by her son, Sir Samuel Sandys, knt., in 1619, who was that year sheriff for the county of Worcester. In a niche of black marble, superbly ornamented and gilt, her effigy is represented kneeling, dressed in the manner of the age in which she lived. On each side is a pillar of black marble, and on the top of them a phoenix. Adjoining to these pillars on

the outside are two whole length figures of Time and Death, of exquisite workmanship. Over all, in a wreath, are enclosed the family arms, supported by two beautiful female figures in a sedentary position. On a swelling entablature of black marble under it is an inscription expressing that Cecilie Sandys, daughter of Thomas Wilford, of Cranbrook, in Kent, sister to the worthy soldier, Sir James Wilford, and wife of Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York, died in the year 1588, and was buried here, &c. &c. About three miles to the south of Woodham Ferrers is

RETTENDEN, in Domesday book called *Retendune*. The whole lordship belonged to the nunnery of Ely from its foundation in the year 673 by Etheldreda. The manor-house, at a small distance north-west of the church, had formerly a park round it well stocked with deer. The Bishop of Ely kept it in exceeding good repair in the reign of Henry III. *Hull Bridge* over the river Crouch to *Rawreth* was rebuilt of timber at the county's expense in 1769; this no longer remains, but at highwater is a ferry. *Battle Bridge* separates the hundred of Chelmsford from that of Rochford. *Hide Hall* is situated about a mile and a half from the church towards Woodham Ferrers. The church of Rettenden consists of a body and chancel; on the north side of which stands a chapel or chantry; and at the west end a stone tower embattled, containing five bells. The east end of this church is highly ornamented by a monument to the memory of the family of the Humfrys. It is a composition of alabaster, white and grey marble, about thirty feet high, and sixteen wide. On a basement of white and grey marble at the foot of the monument is represented one of the family in a cum-bent posture at full proportion, reclining on his left arm, with his hand on a book opened. His left hand is extended towards the celestial regions, to which he looks up with that calmness and tranquillity that await



Designed by J. Burnell from a Drawing by J. King for the Trustees of the Duke.

HYDE HALL,
The Seat of Sir T. Williams Bart
ESSSEX.

Painted May 1842 by F. Seymour, A. R. C. S. & J. C. Mansel-Pleydell.

the departure of a sincere christian. Behind him are two naked boys lamenting with tears that moment which snatches him from existence.

On the back part of this tomb is a spacious pedestal of white marble, on which stand two whole length figures. The right hand one is a man in armour, at whose feet lies a helmet. The figure on the left is a woman in the attire of former days. Between them is seen on the pedestal a skull and bones, the just emblems of mortality; behind is a table of the richest grey marble, upon the top of which are two cherubim. A kind of arched dome of the same sort of marble projects over all, supported by two stately pillars of the Corinthian order, of the like marble, but of exquisite workmanship; the entablatures are of white marble, curiously wrought. Between these are the arms neatly displayed and ornamented with various military trophies, &c. On each side the pillars is a kind of niche of grey marble. That on the north side contains an infirm old man leaning on a stick; the other on the south a middle aged lady gorgeously apparelled, with her left foot treading on a human skull: both these figures are as large as life, and stand on two swelling pedestals of marble. Above each of these is a phoenix ornamented with curious foliage. This elegant monument, upon which is a plain inscription, is inclosed with iron palisadoes, taking in about sixteen feet square, the bottom of which is paved with various kinds of marble, alabaster, and porphyry, prettily displayed. Many of the Humfry family are interred in the same aisle. Upon one of these, and on the body of Richard Cannon, esq. are two stones, with the effigies of two men in brass, and an inscription upon each. The manor of Rettenden is now the property of Abraham Bullan, esq.

About a mile and a half in the same direction lies RUNWELL, or *Ronewell*: this place received its

name from some celebrated running well. The situation is rather low, and here is a mansion-house about a mile from the church. *Ruswell Hall*, being given to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, remained with them till 1546, the period of the dissolution. The mansion-house in this parish was the chief seat of the Flemynges, being formerly a very noble and extensive building, of which some conjecture may be formed from the circumstance of its containing about fifty spacious rooms, besides a large chapel, till a fire consumed thirty of them at the time it was in the possession of the Parkers. Adjacent to the chapel was a burial ground, from which many of the remains of mortality have been at different times disturbed by the plough. There were likewise belonging to it an extensive park, a large warren, fine canals, and delightful woods. This house also commanded a view over some parts of this county and Kent, including more than thirty parish churches. The roof of this house has been described as "rather curious, being arched throughout in the manner of church buildings." In the parlour on the left hand were some very ancient paintings of the Sybils and the Cæsars, supposed to have been the production of some eminent master of the time he lived in.

From the Flemyngs this house and the estate descended to the Sulyard family. It is now the property of Sir John Tyrrell, of Boreham House.

In the wall of the church upon the left hand is a very ancient neat monument of stone, with the following inscription underneath in old English characters: "Here doe lie Ewstace Sulyard Esquier and Margaret Ayloff sometime his wyfe, who had to her first husband Gregory Ballet Esquier, by whome she had yesus Dorothee her only daughter and heyer, and now wyfe unto Anthony Maxrie Esquier. And to her second husband she had the sayde Ewstace Sulyard betweene

whome they had yssue Edward Sulyard Esquier their sonne and heyer, and Mary, Margaret, Jane, Anne and Bridget their daughters; and to her thirde and last husbände she had William Ayloff of Brittens Esquier, by whom she had no yssue, which said Ewstace Sulyard died in Februarie in the first yeare of King Edward the Sixte; and the said Margaret died the fift of Februarie in the IX and twentyeth year of our soveraigne queene Elizabeth." On the top of the monument are the arms of each of her three husbands.

Proceeding towards the high road, which we have so long lost sight of, we pass SOUTH HANNINGFIELD, which contains *South Hanningfield Hall*. The church has a square stone tower, crowned with a small spire, and contains but one bell. There are no monuments in this church. At a considerable distance is

BUTSBURY, situated to the east of Stock; but the church and the principal part of the parish are not near any high road. *Butts Green* is so called from Butsbury. *Impey Hall* stands about a mile south-east of the church. The manor was the property of some religious community till the dissolution under Henry VIII. The mansion-house of the manors of *Whites*, and *Ramsey Tyrrel*, the property of that ancient and respectable family, is situated about the midway between Stock and Butts Green, on the right of the road from Stock. The church of Butsbury is small, and does not contain a single monument.

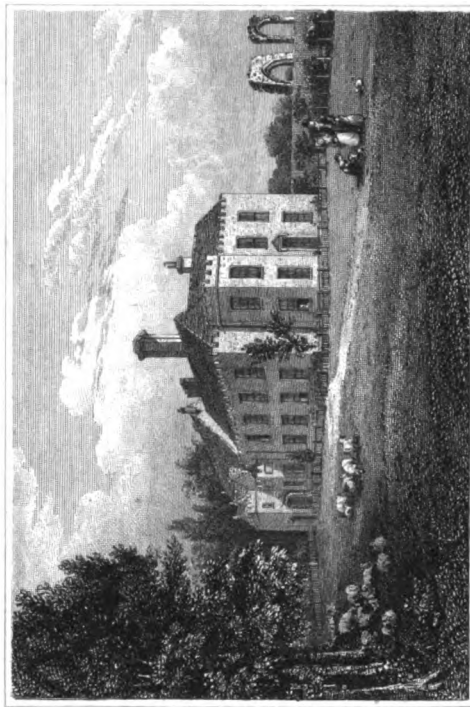
On a line with Butsbury is Stock. This village is situated on the road from Chelmsford to Horndon on the Hill, and Tilbury. The lands in this parish have been the property of several noble families. The church is pretty large, having two aisles and a chancel, and is an ancient brick building. The steeple is said to have been demolished by fire many years ago; the present one is entirely of wood, and remarkable for its being constructed of large thick planks, fixed into deep

grooves between the studs. It contains three bells and a clock. Within the south wall of this church is an altar tomb covered with a grey marble stone, in which is inlaid in brass, an escutcheon and arms, and under these a man in armour, whose hands are folded; at his feet is a plate with a quaint inscription in old English letters, as underneath.

The corpes of Richard Twedye Esquier lyeth buried here in toombe,
 Bewrapte in claye, and so reserved until the joyeful dome;
 Who in his lyffe hath served well against the Englishe foes,
 In foren landes, and eke at home his countrie well it knowes;
 The prince he served in courte full longe a pensioner fit in personage,
 In his country a justice eke, a man full grave and sage;
 Foure almshouses here hath he bilte for four poor Knightes to dwell,
 And them endowed with stypendes lardge enoughe to kepe them well;
 In fifty-eight yeares his course he ran, and ended the 28 Januarye,
 1574.

One would be led to imagine, says the relator of the history of this tomb, that Esquire Twedge had made a very ample provision for his poor knights; but behold it turned out upon examination that this *stypende lardge enoughe to kepe them well*, is no more than one shilling each man per week. By the foundation rules, Stock and Boreham send two men each into these houses; for the foundér lived at Boreham. Beatrice, his mother, was daughter and heiress to Richard Winnington, esq. His great grandfather, George Twedye, came out of Scotland.

We now regain the high road at MOUNTNESSING, *Mountneys-ing*, or *Munassing*. This town and parish receives its name from the ancient family of the Mounteneys; the *ing* added to it is a Saxon word signifying meadow or pasture. The mansion-house of Mounteneys-ing has been described as an exceedingly handsome brick building, situated upon a small eminence near the church, and which apparently had a park formerly surrounding it, though at present the



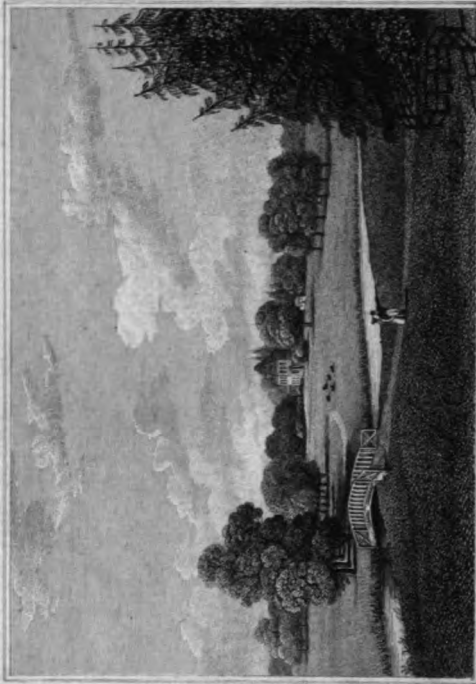
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THEOBALD PRIORY.

The Residence of J. Grant Esq.

ESSEX.

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THE WALKERS,
The Seat of T. Wright Esq.

ESSEX.

Published by J. C. Smith, 10, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London.

grounds mostly consist of arable, meadow, and pasture land. The house has been for many years past occupied by a farmer. The manor-house called *Arnolds* is a large and venerable pile. There is no mention made of this estate till the reign of Henry VII. when it appears to have been the property of Henry Elvedon, esq. In this parish stood the priory of Thoby, founded in King Stephen's reign for the canons of St. Augustine, by Michael de Caprá, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The founders granted Tobias, the first prior, many valuable emoluments. Passing through several families subsequent to the dissolution, the estate remained in the Prescots till the year 1750, when by the death of John Prescott, esq. the house, which was then an exceeding good one, came into the Blincœ family by marriage with the only surviving daughter and heiress of Alexander Prescott, esq. The church of Mountnessing consists of a body and two aisles, and contains several stones with inscriptions to the memory of different branches of the Prescott family. Thoby priory is at present the seat of James Grant, esq. Smyth's Hall, about a mile and a half from the priory, is the seat of Robert Alexander Crickitt, esq.

Rather more than two miles from this place we come to Shenfield.

SHENFIELD, about nine miles from Chelmsford: this village stands on the high road from London. The houses here, in a straggling direction, are said to form the eastern part of Brentwood, being separated from it only by the road leading from Billericay to Ongar. A good house at the corner of the road from the former place, called Brookmans, was built by Mr. Grosvenor. A house about two miles from the church, generally known by the name of the Round-house, is properly Fitz Walters, the property of — Wright, esq. banker in London. From the appearance of this building many persons have imagined there is not a good square room in it; but the reverse is the fact.

Shenfield Hall stands near the church, which is small, though the spire is of a considerable height, and the steeple contains four bells.

Shenfield Place is a capital manor on the north side of the London road. It is now the seat of Richard Heatley, esq.

Shenfield House is said to have been one of those to which Henry VIII. used to resort for the indulgence of his private pleasures. This house, situated in a bottom, was surrounded by a moat, and had a draw-bridge, at the extremity of which were two strong watch-towers of brick. It had likewise a chapel adjoining. It covered a considerable spot of ground, but most of the original buildings have long been taken down. This manor first belonged to the Gages, and was next in the Harry's family, who after enjoying it many generations sold it to Robert Wood, a mathematician, from whose heirs it descended to the Alexanders.

The church of Shenfield is a very ancient edifice, and has been kept in tolerably good repair: it has several monuments and inscriptions, and one of them contains a warm panegyric upon the Rev. William Harman, who was vicar of the parish near 60 years.

From Shenfield a good road leads through Billericay to Rochford, which we shall pursue, and on our way, first, pass through HUTTON. This village, east of Shenfield, stands on the turnpike road from London to Rochford. It is about ten miles from Chelmsford, and two and a half from Billericay. Near the church is Hutton Hall. In the chancel of the church a knight in armour is represented on a stone; under him eight sons, under his wife eight daughters.

BILLERICAY. This town is situated upon an agreeable eminence on the road from Chelmsford to Tilbury Fort, commanding a beautiful prospect over a rich valley to the Thames; the views this way are bounded by the Kentish hills. But though Billericay is included in

the parish of Great Burstled, it is at present a populous town, having been much improved of late years by a number of large and elegant houses.

The parish church is about a mile and a half north of the town; though in the latter there has been a chapel from time immemorial, which was originally used as a chantry, endowed with the tithes and oblations of Blunts Walls, &c.

BLUNTS WALLS, about a mile north of the church, have taken part of the name from an ancient family called *Le Blund*. This manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir William Petre. The name at present applies to some earth-works, presumed to have been part of a Roman fortification, including about four acres, part of which is inclosed in a farm-yard. Morant describes some of the artificial mounts which were within the inclosure as nearly levelled, and mentions the discovery of various fragments of urns, pateræ, and other earthen vessels, about three feet below the surface of a high hill near Billericay; together with Roman copper coins, and two silver ones of the Emperors Trajan and Adrian.

On our right are the two villages of Great and Little Burstled or Burghsted.

GREAT BURSTLED is about two miles and a half eastward of Hutton. The situation of this place and its vicinity commands extensive prospects over a rich country; and from several spots the ships may be discovered with the naked eye, passing and repassing upon the Thames, at the distance of 12 or 14 miles. The privilege of holding a market and fair here was granted by Henry III.; the former, however, fell into disuse before Camden's time.

Burstled Grange. The mansion-house of this name stands about half a mile east of the church, and is so called from having been one of the barns belonging to the Cistercian monks of Stratford Langthorn abbey.

West House manor, about half a mile west of the church, was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Riche. In the church of Bursted are handsome monuments to the memory of Felton Neville, esq. and Joseph Fishpoole, gent. On the south side of the communion table is a small ornamented niche, and a second in the south wall. The north doorway has a pointed arch, in the spandrils of which on each side is an angel; one bearing a scroll, the other a book. The outer moulding is terminated on the east side by the head of a king, and on the west by that of a bishop; below the latter is an ornamented niche: a corresponding one on the opposite side has been stopped up.

On the opposite side of the road are Ramsden Gray, or Cray, Ramsden Bell House, and Downham.

RAMSDEN CRAY is three miles from Billericay, and nine from Brentwood. The manor-house lies in a bottom on the south side of the church, and about half a mile north of it is *Tyled Hall*. The chancel of the church contains a monument to the memory of Mr. Samuel Rudge, citizen, and distiller, of London, who died in 1731, leaving a legacy for beautifying this building, which was amply expended according to his will.

Ramsden Bell House is to the east of Ramsden Cray, and derives its appellation of Bell House from its ancient lords of that name. The mansion-house stands at a little distance north-west of the church. This is the part that belonged to the Bishop of London. In this manor was a free chapel, which stood at a place called Numps Green, but which being destroyed, a cottage was erected on the spot.

DOWNHAM is on the west of Ramsden Bell House. Downham Hall lies in a bottom at a little distance south-east from the church. The manor-house of Tremnals, or Hemnals, is a large old building, lying in a bottom, above a mile and a half north of the

church. This manor was held in 1476 by Sir Thomas Tyrell; it afterwards came to Benjamin Disbrow, esq. seventh son of the famous Major General Disbrow. Here is a singular custom, according to which, if those persons who have to pay quit rent to the manor by twelve o'clock on the Monday neglect it, the value doubles every hour. Several of the Platt family of Downham Hall are interred in the church.

BASILDON lies about three miles from Great Bursted, on the same side of the road. Barstable Hall stands about half a mile from Basildon church. According to tradition, an old town stood within this hamlet. In a pasture near the church, called *Town Field*, several foundations of houses, &c. have been ploughed up, and quantities of human bones dug out of the garden belonging to the parsonage. The manor-house of *Belesdun*, or *Botelers*, stands a little way south of the church, and is moated round. Basildon church is a chapel of ease to Langdon, being united to it. It stands on a rising ground about two miles from the mother church; it is a neat building, and has an embattled tower with a short spire, containing three bells. In the centre of the chapel is a stone in the form of a coffin, no legend remaining but

Ici gist Margarete.

Possibly Margaret de Sutton, wife of William Bigod.

NEVENDON is about two miles eastward of Basildon. The manor-house of Bromford stands near Nevendon church, and is reckoned the chief in this parish; it has been probably so named from some owner, as there is no ford from which it could derive its name. Here is nothing remarkable at present.

WICKFORD is situated on the high road, and lies between Nevendon and Downham. *Wickford Hall* stands near the church. The mansion-house of *Silemans*, in this parish, stood about half a mile north-west of the

church, on the north side of the river, near Runwell. Wickford church is pleasantly situated on a rising ground, and was given by Robert de Essex to the priory of Prittlewell, founded by him. In the chancel an old stone bears the effigies of three persons, and below them four sons and four daughters, with three shields between three boars heads, *couped*.

Proceeding about a mile farther, we arrive at RAWRETH, or Raureth, situated at an angle in the road, from whence the church is about a mile distant.

Raureth Hall, the manor-house, is also about a mile from the church on the south-east. The manor of *Beches* lies near the river Crouch, about a mile north-east from the church, between Battle Bridge and Hull Bridge; it is moated round, and part of it appears very ancient. *Bachenia*, from which *Beches* is derived, was the name it bore at the Norman Survey. *Beke Hall* is mentioned as a manor in this parish. It is on the left hand side of the road from Raleigh to Wickford. The first mention made of it is in 1526.

Chichester Hall is a farm in this parish. In the chancel of Rawreth church is an old gravestone, that has on the dexter side, quarterly, the arms of England and France; on the sinister side, an eagle displayed; in the middle an escutcheon of two parts.

Proceeding two miles further we arrive at

RALEIGH. This was formerly the most considerable town in the hundred, being the head of a great honour, or barony, belonging to Suene, who settled in England before the conquest. Suene was probably of Danish extraction, and as he readily joined William the Conqueror, his lands were restored to him, or he was confirmed in the possession of them. Some of the earth-works belonging to the castle, built here by Suene, still remain. These consist of a mount with an oval shaped base, surrounded by a ditch, and this again by a rampart and a second ditch, defended by other

embankments, particularly on the east side. The summit of the mount is divided; the western part is circular, and upwards of 100 feet high; the other is somewhat of an oval form, and lower. The principal ditch is from 36 to 50 feet wide; the interior vallum 30 feet high. In some places the works are much broken, and the ditches partly filled up. Against the south wall of Raleigh church there is an ancient tomb greatly mutilated, but exhibiting remains of very beautiful workmanship in the pointed style. The upper part is wholly destroyed. The church, standing on a rising ground at the upper end of the town, is a stately building, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The lofty tower at the west end contains five large bells. Respecting the site of a chantry and a chapel in this town, history has not preserved any traces. As Raleigh has been noticed as an *honour*, a term which frequently occurs in county histories, it may be proper to observe "that this is a more noble seignory or lordship, on which other lordships and manors depended, by performance of several customs and services. A great number of knights fees were held of this honour or lordship. There were belonging to it divers frank pledges, holden in several places, and a certain court kept at Raleigh from month to month." By the great extent of the lands held of this barony, and the number of vassals, some idea may be formed of the power of the ancient barons, who, when united, were always able to make head against the monarch himself. Besides the park which formerly belonged to Raleigh, Domesday Book mentions six arpenni of vineyard, yielding, in a good season, twenty modii of wine.

HOCKLEY lies to the east of Raureth, and is about four miles from Rochford. The manor-house of *Hockley Hall* is on a rising ground to the south of the church, and the mansion-house of *Blounts* about a quarter of a mile from it. *Lower Hockley Hall* is so

called in contradistinction from the other Hockley Hall, and stands about a mile north-east of the church. *Plumberow Hall* stands on the left hand side of the road, leading from Rochford to this church, and the mansion-house of *Bowdewyns* lies in a bottom by Hull Bridge, above a mile north of the church. This structure stands on a hill in the most conspicuous part of the parish, and consists of a body and a north aisle, between which are pillars of the Tuscan order. The tower is an octagon, crowned with a shingled spire. William de Codewell, buried in the chancel under a large stone, according to the parish registry, was rector of this church, and died in 1326. It is supposed to be the same building founded by Canute and Turkill, in memory of their victory over Ironside, and that the style of the most ancient part of the building corresponds with the age of Canute. The tower is a low massive octagon, with strong buttresses; and in the interior are five thick columns with slightly ornamented capitals, dividing the nave from a north aisle. To the north of the hill on which this structure stands, the river Crouch appears flowing through a rich tract of country.

ROCHFORD is situated on the Broomhill river, over which are two small bridges. The houses are mostly irregular, and of long standing; and the market-house, of timber, is nearly in the centre of the town, being built about the year 1707. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is situated about half a mile to the west; it consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a lofty brick tower at the west end. The market is held on Thursdays: the number of houses is 184, and that of the inhabitants 1214. A fair is held here on Easter Tuesday for toys; and another on the first Wednesday after the 29th of September, for the resort of wholesale tailors, glovers, and toys.

Rockford, the chief town in the hundred, at the

period of the Domesday Survey, was held by Suene, whose grandson, Robert of Essex, having forfeited his inheritance, this manor was bestowed on Guy Fitz Eustace, who afterwards obtained the name de Rochford from this estate. His grandson, Sir Guy de Rochford, had the privilege of a market granted him for this town, by Henry III. as well as other privileges which were afterwards certified under a *Quo Warranto*, in the time of Edward I. Since this period the manor has passed through various noble families, and was the property of the late Sir James Tylney Long, whose ancestor, Sir Richard Child, purchased it of Viscount Bolingbroke in the year 1712.

A very singular custom connected with this manor is the holding of what is called the *lawless court*: its origin is uncertain, but tradition represents it as arising from a conspiracy against the lord of the manor, projected during his absence, and overheard by himself in his way home. As a punishment, he ordered that all the tenants on his manor should ever after assemble at a certain hour of the night on the same spot where the conspirators met, and do homage for their lands. The court is held in the open air, on King's Hill, on the midnight of the first Wednesday after Michaelmas day, and all the business is transacted in whispers, the minutes being made with a coal, in place of pen and ink. The steward opens the court in as low a voice as possible; yet those who neglect to answer are deeply fined, and every absentee forfeits double his rent for every hour's absence. The time of assembling is from twelve till cock crow; the parties previously meet at the King's Head at Rochford.

Here are six alms-houses, built and liberally endowed by the last Lord Warwick, according to the intention of his father and grandfather; they are for five men and one woman: 60*l.* per annum are to be bestowed on them; each to have 3*s.* 6*d.* per week

and a gown at Christmas, price 20s. 8d. and two loads of wood yearly for each, out of the Earl's woods for ever. These houses are subject to the statutes made for governing the alms-house at Felsted, built by Richard Rich, Lord Hackwell.

HACKWELL is situated between Heckley and Rochford. *Hackwell Hall*, the manor-house, stands near the church, and that of *Clements*, half a mile west of the church: the family of this name were residents here in 1440.

Assingdon, about a mile north of Hackwell, Mr. Camden supposes to have been the place where the battle was fought between Edmund Ironside and Canute. From the church here built upon an eminence, every other church in Rochford Hundred may be seen. *Assingdon Hall* stands near this edifice. Mr. Newcourt relates the history of an image in this church, to which the power of working miracles being attributed, such numbers of people were drawn hither, that the bishop of the diocese was forced to issue a commission in order to detect the fraud.

SOUTH FAMBRIDGE is a mile farther to the northward, and is situated on the south side of the river Crouch, about three miles from Rochford. *South Fambridge Hall* is near the ferry, about half a mile north of the church. The bridge that gave name to this town has been long taken down; but an adventurous love affair is related as having occurred here. The daughter of the Earl of Warwick, who lived at Leigh, in this county, was courted by Captain Cammock, who carrying off the lady on horseback, they came to Fambridge Ferry, when the boat being on the other side, the tide strong, and the fugitives closely pursued, they had no alternative but to swim over, or be taken by her father's servants. The captain solicited her not to risk her safety, but she protested she would live or die with him. They accordingly took the

water; but when they were half over, one of the Earl's servants had arrived at the water's side, and his horse neighing, that of the lovers turned round, and with much difficulty was brought to keep his course; however, they continued their journey to Meldon, where their marriage was consummated. The Earl being informed of the event, said, "seeing she had ventured her life for him, God bless them."

The church of South Fambridge is little and low, and stands in a bottom, about half a mile from the ferry. Turning to the right, and pursuing the course of the river Crouch, we arrive at

CANEWDON, situated on the north side of the river, and adjacent to Assingdon on the east. Here are the remains of a camp, supposed to have been occupied by the Danes; its area is of an oblong form, and included about six acres. The vallum has been levelled, but the foss is yet visible; some parts of it surround the manor-house, which is also encircled by a moat. In a field, called Beaconfield, to the north of this camp, a great variety of urns were found at different times during the last century.

Canewdon Hall, on the north of the church, has been strongly fortified, castle-wise, with a double trench, and fenced about in the ancient manner; the remains of the moats were long visible. The oldest possessors upon record, after Henry de Essex, were a family whose surname was de Cancellis, in French, Chanceaux, a branch that came in with William the Conqueror. After them there is no account of it, till it came into the Darcy family, in 1485. The mansion-house of *Apton Hall* is about a mile south-west of the church. In this parish are also the manor-houses of *Scottys*, *Lamborn Hall*, *Pudsey Hall*, *Bolt Hall*, &c. Here was anciently a fraternity of St. Anne, that had an estate for lights and lamps, the overplus to be distributed in beans and herrings to the poor, in Lent.

On the outside of the church steeple are the arms of France and England quartered, and other shields of Bohun, Mowbray, and Warren. When this church was repaired in 1711, a figure of St. Christopher appeared on the right side of the door which had been concealed by paint.

PAGLESHAM is about a mile and a half to the south-east of Canewdon, and is a kind of peninsula, about four miles north-east of Rochford, having Wallasea island on the east. *Church Hall* stands near the east end of the church. Here are the manors of *East* and *West Hall*, the latter so called in respect to the church, from which the mansion is distant about a mile to the west. All the stones in the chancel and church are defaced.

WALLASEA ISLAND, and the islands of *Rashley*, *Havensore*, *New England*, *Potten*, and *Foulness*, comprise the east end of Rochford hundred. Foulness is the most considerable, its circumference being upwards of twenty miles, exclusive of the track called the *Saltings*, not yet embanked from the sea. It contains nearly 5000 acres, disposed into different farms. Near the middle of the island is a small church, originally founded as a chapel of ease; the floods having frequently prevented the inhabitants from attending their respective places of worship on the main land.

Wallasea is about four miles in length, and rather more than one mile and a half in breadth. Like Foulness, it is divided into farms and grazing grounds. The soil throughout all these islands consists of a deep rich hazel-coloured loam upon a fine sea sand, silt ouze, or sea clay. The higher parts are mostly appropriated to the growth of corn, clover, mustard, and cole seed: the lower parts to the pasturing of sheep, cattle, and horses.

GREAT and LITTLE WAKERING lie near the sea-

shore to the west of these islands. The mansion-house of *Barrow Hall* stands half a mile from the church of Great Wakering. *Wakering Hall* stands a little north-east from the church of Little Wakering. On the right side of the belfry door are the arms of Bishop Wakering, a pelican with a mitre in chief; on the left those of France, England, and Bohun, quarterly; and in the north wall of the church is an arch, as if intended for the founder's effigies.

BARLING. This is a little north of the Wakerings, near a creek that communicates with the Rochford stream, adjoining to Potten island. *Barling Hall* stands about half a mile north-east from the church; and about half a mile west of it is *Mucking Hall*. Near Barling church is an alehouse, the rent of which is applied to the reparation of that edifice: the rectory here has belonged to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's cathedral ever since the reign of Edward the Confessor.

NORTH and SOUTH SHOEbury are on the coast to the south of the Wakerings. The first of these lies north of the other. The manor of *Kefts* here has an old mansion-house, formerly much larger than at present, which is moated round, and stands between the two Shoeburys. This was, for several descents, in the Baker family. The church of North Shoebury has nothing interesting to a traveller.

South Shoebury lies near the Thames, or rather the sea, and is also called *Great Shoebury*. *Shoebury Hall*, the manor-house, is on the south side of the church. The tower of the church here is built of flints, and contains three bells, with a shingled spire. The arch over the passage from the church into the chancel is wreathed. The fort or castle, which was made here by the Danes in the reign of King Alfred, is supposed to have been an earth-work with a trench and a mount, as most of their hasty fortifications were in those times, and which, since that period, has been levelled or

washed away by the sea. So far from Shoebury having been a city, as Mr. Camden supposes, it was even before the conquest divided into two parishes.

Proceeding along the sea-coast towards the west we observe

SOUTHEND. This small village, three miles from Rochford, is pleasantly situated on the acclivity of a well-wooded hill by the sea, nearly opposite to Sheerness, and has, within the last twenty years, obtained some repute as a bathing-place, and has since continued to rise in importance. The air here is esteemed very dry and salubrious, and the water, notwithstanding its mixture with the Thames, is very clear and salt. Besides the machines, which are neat and commodious, here are two warm baths. The terrace, commonly called New Southend, is a handsome range of buildings. The assembly-room is handsomely finished, but is not regularly filled at any stated periods, though the company is always respectable. The theatre here was erected in 1804. The library, an elegant building, somewhat in the gothic style, is beautifully situated on the brow of the hill, between what are called the old and new town. The hotel at the eastern extremity of the terrace is extremely spacious and convenient, being provided with an elegant assembly-room and coffee-room, and the country about Southend is rich and populous. The Princess of Wales some years ago visited Southend, and was the means of bringing this place into note. Near this place is *Thorpe Hall*, the seat of Earl Poulett.

SOUTH CHURCH, nearly adjacent in the southern part of Rochford hundred, is so near the sea, that it might well be called *Sea Church*. In the synod of *Clovesho*, it is called *Sudmynster*. This church and manor were given to Christ Church at Canterbury about the year 824. *South Church Hall*, about half a mile west from the church, is moated round. The mansion-house of *South Church Wix* stands about half a

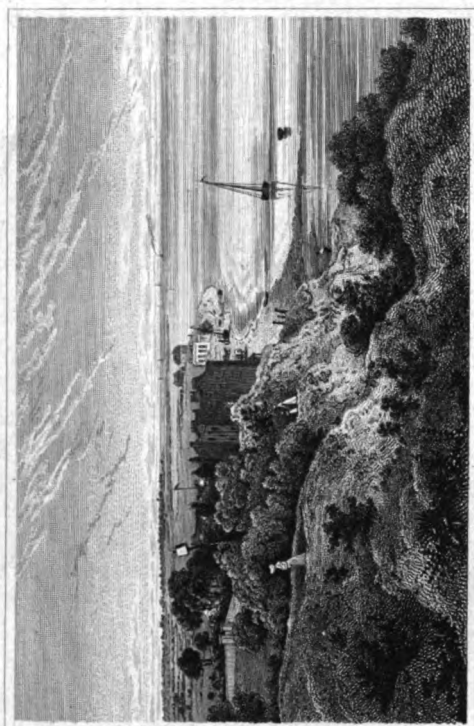


Engraved by T. Barker from a sketch by H. C. Brown for the Illustrated Magazine.

SOUTHEAST TERRACE.

ESSEX.

Published Nov. 1851 by Longman & Co. Stationers' Hall.



Designed by Mulholland, from a drawing by H. de la Roche, for the engraving by J. G. Smith.

*View from the Terrace,
SOUTHEND,
ESSEX.*

Published by Longman & Co. in the Strand.

mile north-east of the church. From it there is a delightful prospect over the islands of Canvey, Grain, Sheppey, Thanet, the Nore up to the mouth of the Medway, and up and down the Thames. *Thorp Hall* is near the sea about a mile from the church, and was formerly in the Bohun family. The porch at the entrance of the church is indented, which shows its antiquity. In the north wall of the chancel, in an arch, is an old monument without an inscription, and another in the south, under another arch.

SHOPLAND. This lies between South Church and Prittlewell. The manor-house of *Shopland Hall* is near the church, and was at an early period in the Fitzwalter family. In this small parish, in 1723, there were but four farm-houses, a vicarage-house, and one cottage, though formerly there had been more dwellings: nor was there any alehouse or poor's rate in this parish, nor copyhold lands, or any other paying to any manor whatever.

The manor of *Botelers* was a distinct hamlet, and the mansion-house is on the right hand side of the road leading from Barling to the church.

SUTTON lies south-east from Hackwell and Rochford, and is called Great Sutton in opposition to Sutton in Prittlewell, otherwise called Little Sutton and Temple Sutton. The mansion of *Sutton Hall* is near the east end of the church; and that of the manor of *Flete Hall* near the Flete, or the arm of the sea that runs up towards Rochford.

STAMBRIDGE, GREAT and LITTLE, lie to the right of Sutton. These names are derived from two Saxon words, signifying stone and a bridge. The mansion-house of Great Stambridge manor stands a little way east of the church, near the water; that of *Hampton Barnes* is in the marshes near the creek, half a mile from the road to Paklesham, and that of *Barton Hall* on the same side of the channel with Hampton Barnes.

Little Stambridge lies north of the former, and the hall stands near the west end of the church. *Combes*, a reputed manor, has long been a farm-house moated round. In the window of the church belfry are the arms of Bohun, Earls of Northampton.

EASTWOOD is situated between Sutton and Rochford. This place received its name from its relative situation with respect to the woods and parks of Raleigh and Thundersley. *West Barrow Hall* is another manor in this parish; the mansion-house is about half a mile north from the church. *Eastwood Lodge* stands on a hill about two miles west of the church, the door of which is very old, and has a great deal of iron about it.

PRITTLEWELL, about two miles to the left of Eastwood, lies by the Thames side between Lee and Southchurch. Prittwella, or Prittwell, seems to be derived from the Saxon words, implying a pretty well or spring, there being a fine one at the priory, which feeds several fishponds, and is accounted the best in the hundred. This respectable village is chiefly situated on the slope of a hill, the summit of which is crowned by the church, a large and rather singular building, dedicated to the Virgin Mary: it consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, running the whole length of the edifice, nearly of equal breadth with the nave. At the west end is a fine tower, embattled with strong buttresses and pinnacles, and forming an excellent sea mark. The roof is supported upon octagonal columns, ranging nearly in the centre. About a quarter of a mile north from the church was the priory, founded by Robert of Essex, in the reign of Henry II. for Cluniac monks, though this house was at first a cell to the alien priory of the same order at Lewes in Sussex. *Earls Hall*, the mansion-house of Earls Fee manor, is about a quarter of a mile north of the church on the opposite side of the road from Priors. The mansion-house of *Temple Sutton* is about a mile



Engraved by T. Barber from a Sketch by M. Gairdner for the Excursionists through France.

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Tudor Revue, by Tongman and C^d Paterson's New.

north-east of Prittlewell church, and was so called because it belonged to the Knights Templars or Hospitalers. It is said to have had a chapel or oratory. The manor of *Milton Hall* is in the south part of this parish; the hall, which is the manor-house, is about half a mile south of Prittlewell church. The hamlet of Melton had a church or chapel of ease, the remains of which were visible at low-water mark about a century ago.

Chalkwell Hall is a manor-house about a mile and a half south-west of the church.

LEIGH. This place is situated in a bottom near the Thames. The manor-house stands near the church on the top of a hill, from which there is a fine prospect of the channel, called Leigh-road. In this church and cemetery are more monumental inscriptions than in all the hundred beside, and mostly on sea-faring people. On a stone inscribed to Richard Haddock are the effigies of a man and three women. Under the man are ten sons, and under the last woman eleven daughters. The tower of this church is mantled with ivy, and in the village is a small custom-house. A good road leads from this place to

HADLEIGH, which lies between Raleigh and the Thames. It has borne the name of Hadleigh *Ad Castrum* from the time of Henry II., when Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, built the castle here. It is situated on the brow of a steep hill, commanding a fine view over the estuary of the Thames into Kent. Though now almost a heap of ruins, and overrun with shrubs and brushwood, it exhibits strong traces of ancient grandeur. The area inclosed by the walls is nearly of an oval form, measuring about 110 paces in length and 40 in width. The walls on the north and south sides are strengthened by buttresses, and the cement, which seems to have sea shells intermixed, is almost as hard as the stones themselves. The entrance is at the north-west angle between the remains of two

towers, and near it has been a deep ditch extending along the north side. The principal parts now remaining are the two towers at the south-east and north-east angles; these are circular on the outside; but the interiors, each consisting of five apartments, are octangular. In the south-east tower, over what appears to have been a fire-place, are some thin bricks, disposed in the herring-bone manner. The thickness of the towers at bottom is nine feet; the upper parts of the walls are about five. The inside of each tower has been cased with squares of chalk, great part of which still remain. The church at Hadleigh consists of a nave and a semicircular chancel, divided by a large heavy arch. Most of the windows are small and lancet-shaped; in the south wall are remains of several niches. *Hadleigh Hall* is the seat of John Alliston, esq.; and between this and Pitsey on the right, is Sadlers, that of — Barker, esq.

CANVEY ISLAND lies opposite Hadleigh, being divided from it by Hadleigh Bay. Its length is about five miles, and its breadth two, containing about 2600 acres of marsh land, chiefly for grazing sheep and cattle. On this island is a chapel and about fifty houses. Before the year 1622 it was usually overflowed at every spring tide. Across the creek, called *Hadleigh Rey*, is a causeway leading into it from the main land.

SOUTH BEMFLEET, OR GREAT BEMFLEET, is also separated from Canvey island by the creek, that, from passing by Hadleigh, is called Hadleigh Rey or Bay. This is navigable for small craft, and the principal traffic is in wood, corn, and calves. *South Bemfleet Hall* stands on the north side of the church, and *Jarvis Hall* about a mile north of it. Here was formerly a castle built by Hastings the celebrated Danish pirate, which is described by Matthew of Westminster as having deep and wide ditches. This fortress was taken and destroyed by Alfred the Great in the year 894,



Engraved by George Smith & Son, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, from a drawing by J. H. P. de la Haye, for the Essex Genealogical Society.

Remains of
HADBLEIGH CASTLE.
ESSEX.

Publ'd Nov. 1851, by Longman & Co. Stationers, London.

when Hastings's wife and his two sons were made prisoners, and conveyed to London. The creeks entering from the Thames round Bemfleet are famous for producing good oysters.

THUNDERSLEY lies between North and South Bemfleet. The manor-house stands about half a mile north from the church, which is seated on an eminence. All the grave-stones in the chancel are defaced.

BOWERS GIFFORD is about a mile to the left of Thundersley. The manor house here is near the church, and was constructed of timber some years ago in lieu of the old one, which was large and moated round. Under the north wall of the church is a grave-stone seven feet in length, with the portrait of a knight; the legend, which was on a fillet of brass, has been torn off, the arms of Gifford only remaining, viz. six fleurs-de-lis, three, two, and one.

NORTH BENFLEET. The manor-house here is situated near the church. This manor belonged to Earl Harold, and at the survey to the king. *Fann Hall* is about a mile north of the church. A good road leads from Thundersley to

PITSEY. Here is *Pitsey Hall*, at the bottom of the hill below the church, towards the Channel; a creek comes up to the door. The mansion of *Chelvedon Hall* lies in a bottom between Pitsey Street and Nevendon. The church stands upon an eminence that affords a delightful prospect.

Pursuing the road from Thundersley, about two miles further, we arrived at

FANGE, or VANGE, which stands north of *Fobbing*, having a creek running up to it from the Thames. *Vange Hall* is situated upon a hill about half a mile north of the church, which contains nothing remarkable.

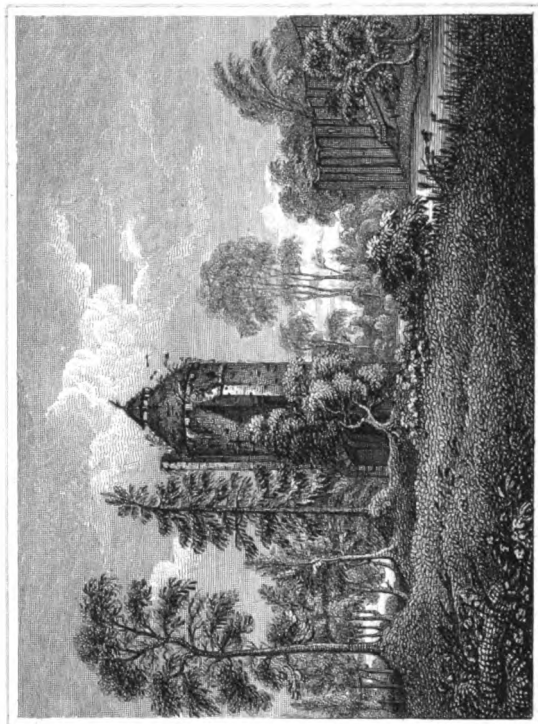
Langdon Hills, the most considerable eminences in

this part of the county, afford some extremely fine and extensive prospects, especially to the south-east, south, and south-west. The whole vale of London, the river Thames, the metropolis, and the hills and coast of Kent as far as the Medway, are, in clear weather, displayed to the view, and compose a scene of almost unequalled beauty. On the north of these hills, as the ground is higher, the prospects are more confined. On this subject, it has been said, "that, all things considered, Essex may justly boast here of the grandest prospect in England." The mansion-house of *Langdon* stands near the church, on one side of the hill, and that of *Goldsmiths* on the other side of the church, towards the south. The church of *WEST LEE*, a parish between Vange and Langdon, having long been down, the people of West Lee attend Langdon church, the parishes being united in 1432.

About two miles to the north of Langdon Hills is the village of

DUNTON, situated between the two Horndons. *Dunton Hall* stands a little to the south of the church-yard. *Dunton Waylet* is a capital messuage, about a mile north of the church, and, in 1603, belonged to George Drywood, gent.

LAINDON, a small village, lies about three miles to our right; the church, consisting of a body and a south aisle, is ancient, and stands upon an eminence at a considerable distance from the place, and has all the appearance of having formerly been a sea-mark. The rectory has invariably been in the collation of the bishops of London, and the present rector is the Rev. — Hodgson, of St. George's, Hanover-square. There are several stones in the chancel with the figures of religious men, but the legends are torn off. The parsonage house lies in a bottom, between the church and Basildon, and, from the form of the chimney, seems to be an ancient building.



Drawn & Engraved by W. Wallis for the Association of English Men.

Remains of

HERBY HALL.

ESSAY.

Published 1811 by Longman & Co. in the Strand.

Proceeding towards Brentwood, we pass *Heron Gate*. Here was *Heron Hall*, the mansion of the Tyrrells, which was pulled down about the year 1790, with the exception of two round towers, which yet remain. A spacious farm-house, with offices, &c. have been built upon its site.

INGRAVE. This parish having been united to that of *West Thorndon*, in the year 1734, a new church was built by Robert James, Lord Petre, an ancestor of the present possessor. This is a plain brick structure, standing about midway between the site of the two ancient churches. Two flat monumental stones of the Fitz Lewis's, were removed into it from Ingrave. On one of them, engraven on brass, is an elegant female figure of Margaret Fitz Lewis, who was thrice married; her third husband was John, Duke of Exeter: she died in August 1400. On the left is

THORNDON HALL, the seat of the present Lord Petre, is situated in an extensive park, on a fine eminence, about two miles from Brentwood, at the south extremity of an avenue leading from that town. The mansion was executed from designs by Paine. It is built of white brick, and consists of a centre and two wings, connected by circular corridors. On the north side is a small portico, supported by six fluted Corinthian pillars. The hall is a noble room, forty feet square; the roof is supported by eighteen columns, covered with a composition resembling marble, by Wyatt. In the dining-room are various portraits of the Petre family; Henry VIII. and Edward VI., apparently by Holbein, James II. the Earl of Darnley, the whole length; Joan of Arc, the Duke of Buckingham, and some others. The state bed-room contains a fine painting of St. Catherine reading, and leaning on the wheel of martyrdom. In the drawing-room, thirty-eight feet by twenty-six, are portraits of the dowager Lady Petre and Mrs. Onslow, by Cosway.

The library, a particularly handsome apartment, is formed over the east corridor, and resembles a semi-circular gallery; it contains several models of cattle, executed by Garrard for Lord Petre; and elegant busts of the Hon. Charles James Fox, R. J. Petre, and R. E. Petre. The saloon, sixty feet by thirty, also contains a great number of portraits. The chapel is in the right wing of the house; it is elegantly fitted up, and decorated with a fine painting of the Nativity, brought from Rome.

EAST HORNDON is about a mile from Ingrave. The church is a small irregular brick building, apparently constructed at different periods, and having a tower at the west end, supported with massy buttresses. The centre contains a nave and chancel; the latter has an octagonal ceiling of wood, and is ornamented with carved shields of arms, roses, and other figures. On the south side are chapels of the Tyrrell and Petre families: in the former, on a flat stone, is a quaint Latin inscription in memory of Sir John Tyrrell, *knt.* who suffered greatly for his adherence to Charles I. On the north side are also two chapels, and one of them is much ornamented. Here is an ancient mutilated monument, having the date 1400 on a rim of brass, most of which is worn away, supposed to have been erected in memory of the Tyrrells, who were lords of the manor of Heron Hall, in this parish. Another mutilated monument, with the date 1422, is that of Sir John Tyrrell and his wife Alice. The font, a square massy stone, is covered with intersecting arches and other ornaments. Under the south wall are the unknown effigies of a man in armour, with children behind him.

WEST HORNDON lies westward of the former: the manor was the property of the celebrated family of Fitz Lewis, previous to the year 1442. His last male descendant John married Anne, daughter of Sir Robert

Lovell ; but had the melancholy fate to be consumed, with his bride, on the wedding-night, when the manor-house was totally destroyed. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, or James I. this manor became the property of the Lords Petre.

On our left are the villages of Great and Little Warley and Childerditch.

GREAT WARLEY is separated from *Little Warley* by a small stream that runs by Bulphan Fen, into the Thames. *Warley Place* is an ancient seat, being a good brick building embattled, and pleasantly situated about two miles north of the church. The manor-house of Warley Franks is about a mile south-west of the church.

LITTLE WARLEY, from its relative situation to the other, is also called *East Warley* ; there is nothing in its former history or its present state that need detain us.

The church, however, contains a very handsome monument to the memory of Sir Denner Strutt, bart. and his wife. This monument underwent a thorough repair, and was beautified at a very considerable expense three years ago by Col. Strutt, of Ferling-place in this county, who is lineally descended from the baronet's brother. Sir Denner Strutt had a large estate in this part of Essex, and two farms in Ferling ; the former were taken away from him by the followers of Cromwell, Sir Denner having supported the royal cause.

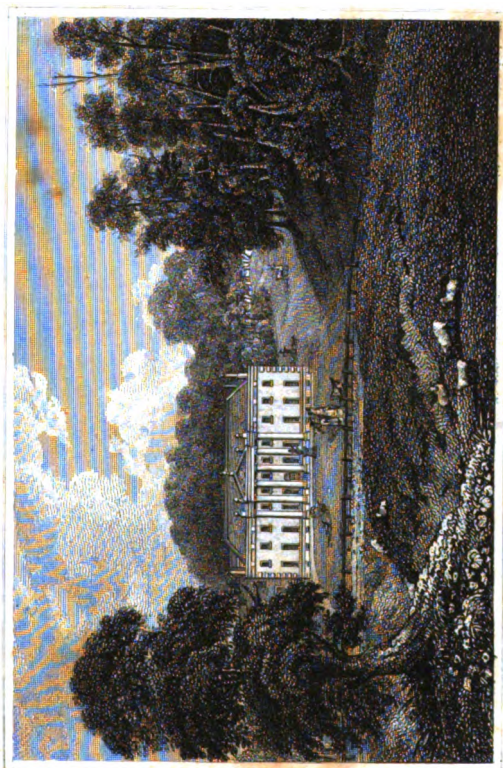
CHILDERDITCH lies a little north of the *Warleys*, and the *Hall* is about a quarter of a mile south-west of the church.

BRENTWOOD, about three miles from Ingrave, is, by some writers, supposed to have taken its name from a part of the forest of Essex being designedly, or by accident, burnt, or *brent*, as the old English word is written. This town is pleasantly situated upon a com-

manding eminence on each side of the high road to Harwich, containing 218 houses, and 1238 inhabitants. The market is on a Thursday, and its annual fairs are held on the 18th of July, and on the 15th and 16th of October. Being a considerable thoroughfare, it contains many inns and public-houses, but the houses are mostly irregular. The Crown Inn, now shut up, is of very ancient foundation; and even in Salmon's time (1760) was reputed to have had that sign 300 years. Mr. Salmon, in his Collection, says, he was informed by the master, who had writings in his custody to shew it, that it had been an inn during that period with this sign; that a family named Salmon held it 200 years; that there had been eighty-nine owners, amongst whom were an Earl of Oxford, and an Earl of Sussex. The assizes were once held in this town; and in the High-street are the remains of a *Town Hall* and *Prison*. Here is also a good *Grammar School*, endowed by Sir Anthony Brown, in 1537. A chapel here was founded, about the year 1221, at the intercession of David, prior of St. Osyth, for the use of the tenants of a manor belonging to that monastery. It is a small structure, consisting only of a body and a chancel. To the east of Brentwood is *Middleton Hall*.

Camden supposes the *Cesaromagus* of the Itinerary to have been somewhere in this neighbourhood; but his opinion is not supported by other antiquaries. Some pateras and other vessels, however, are mentioned by Salmon, as having been found on a military way leading from Billericay towards Ongar, as well as two Roman *Lares*, dug up near Shenfield. At South Weald, also on the south-western verge of Weald-Hall Park, are traces of a circular camp, single ditched, including about seven acres, supposed to have been a *Castra Exploratorum*.

SOUTH WEALD, or, according to the Saxons, South



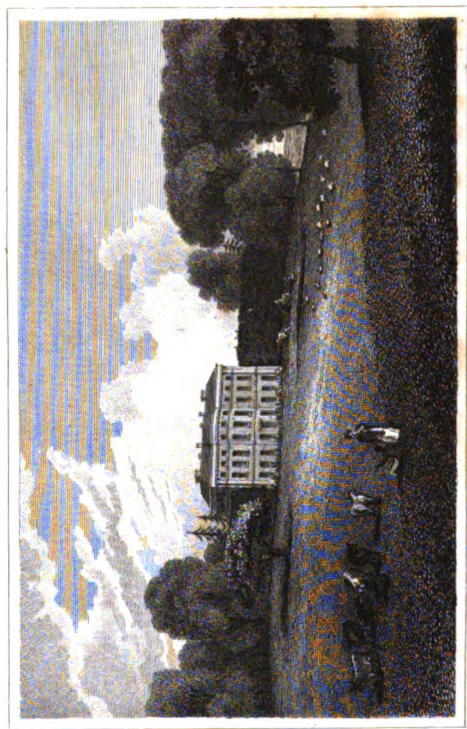
Drawn & Engraved by W. Miller for the Rev. John Sturges, Esq.

WEALD HALL.

The Seat of 't. Tower, Esq.

ESSEX.

Printed and Sold by J. Sturges, at the Sign of the Crown, in the Strand.



Engraved by T. Hawksworth from a Sketch by J. Irving for the Excursion through Basins.

DONNAN'S.
The Doctor for Throat, Nose, Ear,
ESSEX.

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

Wood, lies to the right of the road about a mile distant from it, and about two miles from Brentwood. It is remarkable for the pleasant prospects about it. The church is a handsome building, supported in the middle by five pillars of the Tuscan order. The tower at the west end is embattled, and contains five bells; this tower was built in Henry VII.'s reign, a rate being granted for that purpose for five years. *Weald Hall* here, near the church, the seat of C. F. Towers, esq. is a handsome building, situated in a large park, in which is a prospect house embattled like a tower. The plantations, gardens, and grounds in general are delightful. On *Weald Side Common* is *Ditchleys*, and at *Pilgrim Hatch* *Dounsels*; and at the bottom of *Weald Side Common*, is a bridge called *Wright's Bridge*, through which runs a rivulet separating *Haverling* and *Romford* from this parish. Nearly adjoining to *Weald Hall* is *Rocketts*, the seat of the venerable Earl St. Vincent.

Dagnams is nearly adjacent to South *Weald*. This being the property of Sir Richard Neave, who obtained the manor by purchase in 1772, he pulled down the ancient manor-house called *Dagnams*, and erected a handsome mansion on a new site.

It is now the residence of Sir Thos. Neave, bart. and is situated on the right of the road coming from Brentwood towards Romford. The house stands about a mile and a half from the road, surrounded by a small but very pleasing park. This seat contains an excellent library and a select collection of paintings, principally from the old masters.

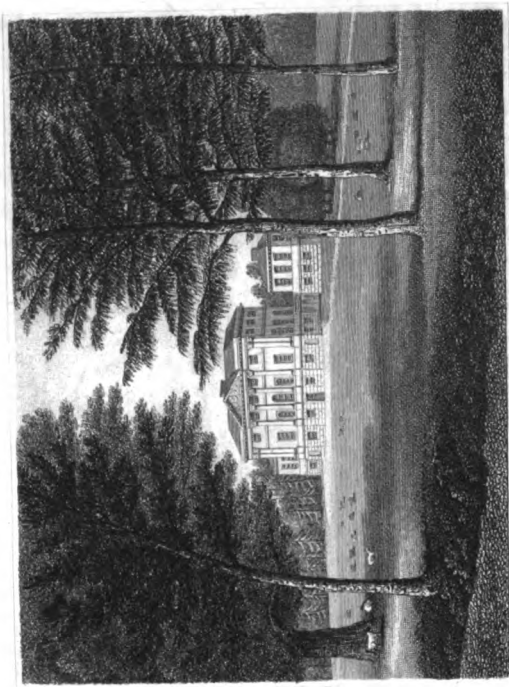
Brook Street, another hamlet of Brentwood, is so named from a brook at the bottom of a hill. On the north side of this street, by *Spital Lane*, was formerly an hospital for lepers, founded before the year 1300, by the Bruyns of South Ockendon. The mansion belonging to *Caldicot* manor, lies north of the London

road, near Weald Park. The Moat House, so named because it stood by a moat, was called Brook Hall, when occupied by the family of the Wrights. It stands in Brook-street.

Hare Lodge, or *Hare Hall*, on the same side of the road, is the seat of Benjamin Severn, esq.; this was begun on the site of the old mansion, in the year 1769, under the direction of Mr. Payne. It is constructed of Portland stone, and consists of a centre with two wings, connected by colonnades. The interior is fitted up in a handsome manner. The large drawing room, 36 feet by 20, extends the whole length of the house, and commands some diversified and pleasant views. In the staircases here Mr. Payne has displayed as much taste and elegance as is exhibited at Wardour Castle and some other buildings. In a sequestered part of the pleasure grounds a petrified tree is preserved, which was brought from the Isle of Portland.

Gidea Hall, on the right of the road, is about one mile east from *Romford*: this was anciently the seat of the Cooke family. In 1467 Sir Thomas Cooke obtained a licence for fortifying and embattling it; but falling under the displeasure of the court, he only completed the front, the rest was erected by his grandson, the famous Sir Anthony Cooke, who entertained Queen Elizabeth here in 1568. Lady Cooke, his widow, also entertained Mary de Medicis, mother of Queen Henrietta Maria, spouse of Charles I. before her arrival at London in 1638. Lady Jane Grey resided here while she received some part of her education. This mansion was taken down when the new house was erected. The grounds were much improved by Richard Benyon, esq. M. P. whose father purchased the manor in 1745. It is now the residence of — Black, esq.

About a mile before we arrive at Romford a road



Engraved by T. Agnew & Sons, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

HARE HALL.
The Seat of — Sir John Lubbock, Bart.
ESSEX.

Printed and Published by T. Agnew & Sons, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.



From a drawing by William G. for the engraving by J. H. P.

**CYDER HALL,
The Seat of J. Black, Esq.
ESSEX.**

An engraving by J. H. P. from a drawing by W. G.

branches to the left, which we shall pursue in order to notice the remaining villages between us and the Thames.

HORNCURCH, the first of these, is about two miles and a quarter from the road. This town derives some part of its notoriety in history from the manor to which it belongs being given to the hospital at the Savoy in London, by Henry II. Peter, Earl of Savoy, having built the palace in the Strand called the *Savoy*, he gave this to the brethren of the hospital, which was afterwards suppressed among the other alien priories to increase the revenues of New College, Oxford. The church here is a spacious building, dedicated to St. Andrew. The London road formerly run through Hornchurch, Upminster, Cranham, Warley, and near the place where the new church of West Thorndon stands; thence between Ingrave church and Ingrave Hall, to Hutton and Frierning. One mile on the left of Hornchurch is Nelmes, the seat of F. H. Newman, esq.

About four miles from this place is

DAGENHAM. This parish contains two manor-houses, viz. those of *Parslows* and *Valence*. Several other manors are lost, and their houses demolished.

Within the embankment of *Dagenham Breach* there is still a pool of 40 or 50 acres, where the earth had been carried off by the tide, and near it a small circular thatched building called *Dagenham Breach House*, kept by the subscription of gentlemen, who form parties to fish in the pool at the proper season. While the works that prevented any further inroad of the watery element were carrying on, subsequent to the great inundation in the winter of 1703, a very extensive stratum of *moor logg* or rotten wood of various kinds was found about four feet below the surface of the marshes. This stratum was about 10 feet in depth, and appeared to consist of whole trees and brush wood, with but

very little intermixture of earth. Among the trees were many of yew and willow, the former were mostly undecayed. Some oak or hornbeam was also found, together with large quantities of hazel nuts, and several stags-horns above the moor logg.

UPMINSTER, about two miles from Hornchurch, is a pleasant village, surrounded with respectable seats. In this parish is *Tilehurst*, and among the residences that may be ascribed to the pleasantness of the situation, is *Gains*, about three quarters of a mile south-east of the church, *Sunnings*, *Tylers Hall*, *Vauxhall*, *New Place*, the *Parsonage*, &c. *Upminster Hall* is one of the seventeen manors given by Earl Harold to the Abbey founded by him at Waltham, and thence named *Waltham Hall*. It is now the seat of Champion Branfill, esq. It was probably a retiring place or hunting seat for the abbot. Here he had a chapel built of stone, with a font in it, and a cemetery, which was afterwards the garden. The church here has been in a great measure rebuilt within the last century. The mansion of *Upminster Hall* is built with timber, and commands some fine prospects over parts of Essex and Kent. The celebrated Dr. Derham, author of the *Physico-Theology*, and various other works, was rector of this parish from the year 1689 to 1735.

CRANHAM is about a mile to the left of Upminster. The manor here and *Cranham Hall*, now the seat of Sir Thomas Aprece, bart., have been in many families, and in 1744, by marriage, became the property of General Oglethorpe, who was so actively employed in settling the colony of Georgia. The house is a large antique building. On the right, near Corbet's Tey, is *Great Gains*, the seat of Peter Esdaile, esq.; and *Hacton Hill*, that of John Russel, esq.

The seat called *Stubbers*, is about two miles from Cranham. This was much improved several years

since by John Russel, esq.; it is now the residence of William Russel, esq.

NORTH and SOUTH OKENDON are also on the left. The manor of North Okendon was long in the possession of the family of Pointz; and the house in this parish thus named, was formerly the seat of Admiral Lyttleton. The church has a north aisle—the chancel a north chapel. The tower contains five bells. In the chapel are several monuments, and a large one adorned with various emblematical devices painted and gilt, and the effigies of Gabriel Poyntz, once lord of this place, and his wife Etheldred. A spring of excellent water in the churchyard supplies the village.

North Okendon Hall is the principal building here, partly ancient, and partly modern, standing upon an eminence, and commanding a very rich prospect.

South Okendon. This parish, at the Conqueror's Survey, was a part of the large possessions of Geoffry de Magnaville, and was afterwards divided into the manors of Bruynes and Groves. The principal seat was a stately pile, not far from the church on the right hand side of the road leading to Warley and Brentwood. The stone front that remained the longest was in the Gothic style, and the whole building enclosed by a moat very wide and full of clear water. One of the coheirs of the Rokelle family it appears brought this estate in marriage to Sir William de Bruyne, one of whose ancestors was chamberlain to King Edward I. The tower of the church of South Okendon is round, after the Danish fashion, and embattled. In the church, among other inscriptions, there is one for Sir Ingram Bruin, knt. lord of this village, and patron of the church, who died August 12, 1400. Two miles on the left is *Bellas House*, the seat of Sir T. Barrett Lennard, bart.

BULPHAN lies south of Dunton, about three miles from Okendon, on the brook that runs down to Purfleet. According to tradition, the tide used to flow

so strong by Purfleet, that boats could sail up to *Orsett Hall*, or higher. The hall of Bulphan manor stands near the east end of the church, and the Wic is in a bottom.

HORNDON ON THE HILL is about two miles from Bulphan. This place, from the nature of its situation, commands a fine prospect. *Ardern Hall* here is a good brick building, at the east end of the town. The mansion-house of *Malgreffs*, or *Malgraves*, is about a mile from it, and that of *Wythefeld* is about a mile north of the church. Thomas Highbed, a yeoman, who was burnt here for heresy, in the reign of Mary, had in this parish a messuage, and sixty acres of land, called *Horndon House*, and a cottage. The church, which is in the middle of the town, has a stone tower embattled, and containing five bells. Here has been a custom at the churching of a woman, for her to give a white cambric handkerchief to the minister, as an offering. Upon a decayed monument, against the wall of the church, are the following lines:

Take, gentle marble, to thy trust,
And keep, unmix'd, this sacred dust;
Grow moist sometimes, that I may see
Thou weep'st in sympathy with me:
And when by him I here shall sleep,
My babes also safely keep;
And from rude hands preserve us both, until
We rise to Sion's Mount, from *Horndon on the Hill*.

CORRINGHAM lies on the left of the road from Brentwood, near the banks of the Thames.

Sir William de Baud, who was sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in the year 1375, obtained liberty of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, to inclose within his park, twelve, or twenty-two acres of land, in consideration of presenting them and the canon a fat buck and doe yearly, on the days of the Conversion and Commemoration of St. Paul. "On these days the buck and doe were brought, by one or more servants, at the

hour of the procession, and through the midst thereof, and offered at the high altar of St. Paul's cathedral: after which the persons that brought the buck received of the dean and chapter, by the hands of their chamberlain, twelve pence sterling for their entertainment—but nothing when they brought the doe. The buck being brought to the steps of the altar, the dean and chapter, apparelled in copes and proper vestments, with garlands of roses on their heads, sent the body of the buck to be baked, and had the head and horns fixed on a pole before the cross, in their procession round the church, till they issued at the west door, where the keeper that brought it blowed the death of the buck, and then the horns that were about the city answered him in like manner; for which they had each of the dean and chapter fourpence in money, and their dinner; and the keeper, during his stay, meat, drink, and lodging, and five shillings in money at his going away, together with a loaf of bread, having on it the picture of St. Paul." This custom was continued till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the manor appears to have passed into another family.

FORBING. This lies north of Corringham, having the Thames on the south, and *Fobbing Creek*, the mouth of which is called *Hole Haven*, near Shell Haven and Ridham Gap. *Fobbing Hall* is near the church, from which, as it is on a rising ground, there is a fine prospect over the marshes to the river. The tower is square, built of stone, and embattled. In the south window of the church are the arms of England; and in the north window the arms of France and England.

STANFORD LE HOPE lies to the south of Corringham. The manor of Hassingbroke is the chief in this parish, and is so called from the brook running by it. It is about three quarters of a mile north of the church, and is an old stately edifice, built by Cuthbert Fetherston,

esq. in the reign of James I. He was for thirty years cryer and usher to the king; and in Hassingbroke Hall were his effigies, as large as life, in the habiliments of his office. The mansion of *Abbot's Manor* here stands about a mile north-east of the church, pleasantly situated on a green where several ways meet. On the *north* side of the church is the tower, containing five bells. In Stanford Le Hope was formerly a chapel called St. Mary's, and a free chapel in Abbot's manor. In the windows of the parish church were several coats of arms; those of Valence, Montchensy, Vere, Hastings, Lucy Le Power, Mandeville, Fitz Warren, Tany, Ardell, Gernon Burnham, and Brockhole.

MUCKING is on the road, eighteen miles from Brentwood. Here is a handsome house, called *New Jenkins*; and *Mucking Hall* stands on the south side of the church. In the aisle is a monument with the inscription on Elizabeth Downes, who lived in happy marriage with four several husbands, all kind and loving gentlemen, &c.

ORSETT is about two miles to the right of Mucking. Here are some ancient intrenchments inclosing four or five acres. The manor-house is about half a mile north-west from the church, and is commonly called *Orsett Hall*, a large old building, apparently erected near 350 years since. Bishop Bonner also had a house here, in which he sometimes resided, but this has been mostly demolished several years since. The church is a large and spacious building; and the chancel contains chapels on the north and south sides; the tower is of brick, with a wooden spire.

CHADWELL is about two miles from Tilbury, situated on the high-road. The hall, which is the manor-house, stands near the church. The manor-house of Ingleby is demolished; but *Long House*, or *Chadwell Place*, still remains. The tower at the west end of the church is of considerable height; and in the

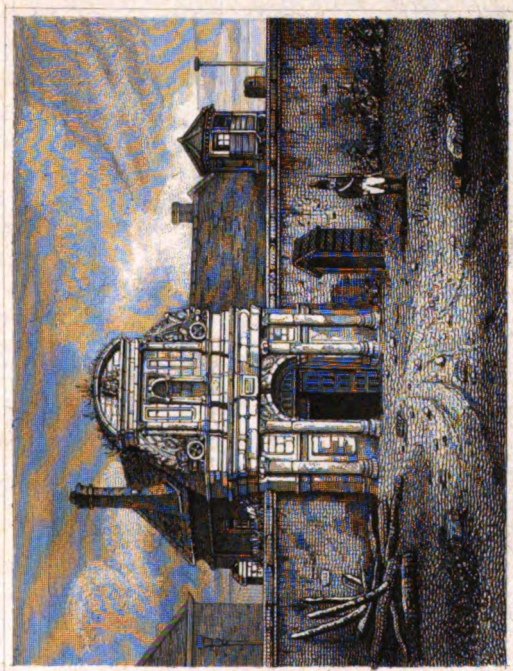
chancel is a stone with four shields on it. When Tilbury Fort was enlarged by Charles II. the road was turned into Chadwell, being that part that enters a gate and passes to the west of the present fort. The inhabitants of Chadwell were indicted for not repairing so much of the road as lay in their parish : but upon a trial at the assizes at Chelmsford, in July 1741, as it appeared that the governors of the fort had previously repaired the road out of the profits of the ferry, from the period when it was turned into Chadwell parish, it was determined that they ought to continue to bear the expences incurred. In this parish and Little Thurrock, near the highway leading from Stafford, are various caverns or holes, of unequal depths and dimensions, formed in the chalk, which here constitutes the upper stratum. Camden describes them as very artfully built with stone ; and from the drawing given by him of two of them, they appear to open from the top by a narrow circular passage, which begins to spread near the bottom, where it communicates with subterranean apartments, each of which is of a particular and different form. Dr. Derham, who measured six of these caverns, all lying within the compass of so many acres, describes them as of the respective depths of fifty feet, six inches ; fifty-five feet, six inches ; seventy feet, seven inches ; eighty feet ; and eighty feet, four inches. A horizontal passage is said to lead from *Cave Field*, at East Tilbury, into one of the caverns. Tradition has referred them to the Britons ; but, by a most unwarrantable conjecture, supposed them to have been the gold mines of Cunobeline. Some modern authors, with more appearance of truth, conceive them to have been the granaries of the Britons. They are also called *Dane Holes*, and probably might have been used as receptacles for the plunder obtained by those barbarous invaders.

WEST TILBURY lies a little to the left of Chadwell,

and is said to have been an episcopal seat of Cedda, bishop of the East Saxons, who, for some time in the seventh century, spread the Christian religion in this county, and built churches in several places. However, Tilbury is now only a small village. Within the manor a medicinal spring was discovered in the year 1727, extremely useful in hæmorrhages, scurvy, diabetes, and other disorders. The marshes in this and the adjacent parishes, are chiefly rented by the grazing butchers of London, who generally stock them with Lincolnshire and Leicestershire wethers. The church is in a pleasant situation, at the end of a green, on a rising ground, that affords an excellent prospect towards the Thames and the Channel. A former lofty stone tower belonging to the church, served as an excellent sea-mark till it fell down. *West Lee Chapel* stood upon the site of the fort; and there was another at Langdon, called *East Lee Chapel*. In 1335 this chapel was a mile or more from the church. The yearly value it then brought was 53s. 4d. being only half of what it once was, a circumstance which seems to indicate the decrease of population in this quarter.

On the banks of the Thames, in this parish, is *Tilbury Fort*, originally built as a kind of block-house, by Henry VIII., but converted into a regular fortification by Charles II. after the Dutch fleet had sailed up the river in 1667, and burnt three English men-of-war at Chatham. Various additions have since been made, and the fort is now mounted with a great number of guns. Some traces of the camp which, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, was formed here to oppose the descent of the Spanish Armada, are still visible.

EAST TILBURY. The manor-house here stands near the church on the west; that of the manor of *Gobyons* is a mile north of it, near the river. The mansion-house of the manor of *Gossalyne*, or *Gossalme*, is about three quarters of a mile north-west of the church, the



Engraved by W. H. Sturt, from a drawing by J. H. Sturt

Entrance to
TILLYMURE FORT,
ESSEX.

Pub. & Sold by Longman & Co. Stationers, No. 1, St. Paul's Church-yard.

lofty tower of which was beaten down by the Dutch fleet that came up the Thames in the reign of Charles II., and a wooden frame has since supported two bells.

GREYS THURROCK is on the right of the road from Brentwood. This town principally consists of one irregular street, situated on a small creek from the Thames, navigable for hoys and vessels of small burthen. The market is chiefly for the sale of corn, and is much frequented. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and Paul, is built in the form of a cross, but the tower is on the north side. Here is Belmont Castle.

LITTLE THURROCK is one of the three places of this name on the shore of the river Thames, and this, lying east of the others, is sometimes called *East Thurrock*.

Torells Hall stands by the side of the road near the pound, and the manor belonged to the family of this name as early as the reign of Henry II. The manor-house of *Berewes*, now called *Barons*, is on the left-hand side of the road leading to Chadwell. The church contains nothing remarkable.

STIFFORD, lying a little north of the Thurrocks, is pleasantly and conveniently situated. The manor belongs to the Embroiderers Company, and was leased by them to John Spence, esq. for one hundred years. *The Ford House* here is also held of the same company. The manor-house of *Fret Hall*, or *Clays*, is about a mile east of the church, on the east side of the brook. The church has a south aisle, and the chapel a south chancel; on the ground of the chancel is a brass plate with a half length of a person in a sacerdotal habit, and this inscription in Latin: "Pray for the soul of Sir Radulph Peickey, some time rector of this church." Within the communion rails is another inscription in capitals, upon David de Tilbury. An epitaph on the ground upon Mr. Anthony Bradshaw of *Stifford's Clay*, his wife Judith, and their son William, who died between the years 1636 and 1649, consists of these re-

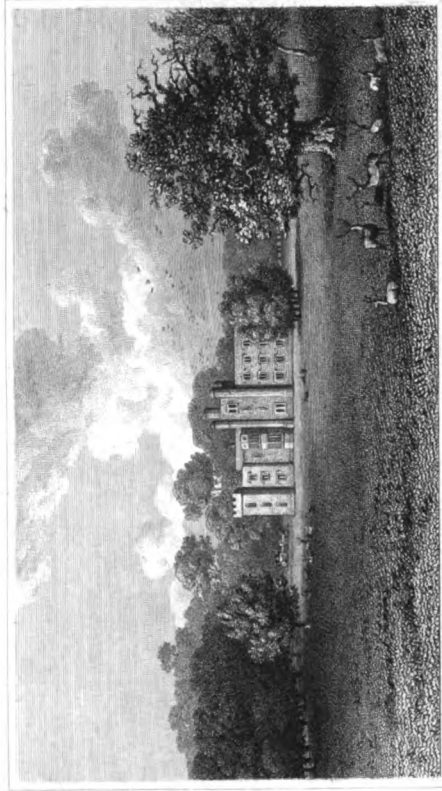
markable lines, printed exactly after the manner in which they are engraved.

An unknown grave murders those dead
 Who'd still, outlive themselves to bury's
 Worse than kill: thus wrapp'd in stone
 We weep, and children give: their
 Parents life, thus burying them alive:
 The silent grave consents that Death
 To break: th' unnatural use made
 This stone to speak.

PURFLEET lies about three miles west of Stifford: this manor, according to an old deed in Lord Dacre's possession, anciently belonged to the prior of St. John of Jerusalem; after passing through many families it came to the Lakes. Here was formerly a ferry over the Thames into Kent.

Lying near the Thames, Purfleet is inhabited chiefly by people belonging to the lime and chalk-pits, which are the property of persons who carry on a great traffic in lime. The walks among the vast caverns appear romantic, and the views from the elevations are delightful. Here are several magazines for gunpowder belonging to government, and a handsome house and garden for the use of the Board of Ordnance. The magazines are all bomb proof, and so secured, that the explosion of any one of them by accident would not affect the others.

AVERLEY lies about a mile to the north of Purfleet. Here is Bellas House, the seat of Sir T. Barrett Lennard: it is a large stately edifice, built in the reign of Henry VIII., situated about three quarters of a mile from the church, standing rather low, but nevertheless commanding a good view into Kent. It is surrounded with a park about three miles in circumference, adorned with fine old oaks, and various kinds of trees forming very agreeable vistas. Here was



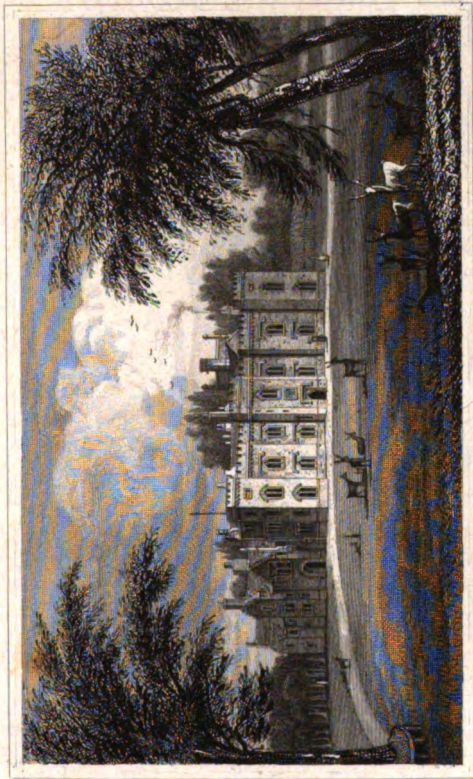
Engraved by T. H. Hughes from a Drawing by W. Lind Laing, for the Excavations through Britain.

BELEIUS,

The Seat of Sir T. B. Leonard, Bart. F. R. S.

ESSEX.

Pub. & Sold by Longman & Co. Stationers, No. 1.



Designed by W. H. Sturt, for the Engraving, by J. A. Sturt.

BELIUS.
The Seat of Sir T. B. Leonard, Bart. F.R.S.
ESSEX.

Published by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

formerly a heronry, which not being common was esteemed a circumstance of no small consequence when hawking was in fashion. This mansion was altered and greatly improved by the late Lord Dacre; the decorations made from his own designs are extremely neat.

The manor of Averley, after passing through a variety of owners, became the property of St. Thomas's Hospital. The manor of Bell House has the singular privilege attached to it of excluding any person, however great his rank or qualification, from pursuing his game over or into this manor. The estate took its name from the *Bellhus* family, in the reigns of King John and Henry III, and was originally of Cambridgeshire.

The manor-house of *Bumpsted*, or *New-Place*, is about half a mile north of the church. *Brooklands*, a reputed manor, has been joined to Bumpsted since the year 1890. *Bretts*, another mansion-house, is about a mile and a half north-west of the church, within sight of the road from Averley to Romford. It is large and surrounded with a wide moat, and though long since converted into a farm-house, retains the signs of its former importance. Charles Barret, esq., father of Lord Newburgh, was one of the last gentlemen that resided here. Lord Newburgh erected an almshouse in this parish, on the front of which was inscribed, *Domum Dei*, 1639. Being quite ruinous, this was taken down in 1745, and a lesser one built out of the old materials by Lord Dacre; and the original inscription was again put on the front. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a body and two aisles; the chancel has a north chapel. At the west end a square tower of flint and stone contains five bells, and has a small wooden spire: a loftier spire, shingled, was blown down during the great storm in November, 1703. The interior contains some ancient inscriptions

upon the Barret family and Radulphus de Knevynton, buried here in 1370.

WENINGTON lies north-west of Averley. Here is *Wenington-Hall*, the manor-house, near the church on the left of the road from Rainham.

NOKE HALL is in the marshes, about a quarter of a mile from the church. The church is a good building, and stands upon an eminence. It is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Peter, and has a square stone tower.

RAINHAM lies about a mile and a half farther to the north-west. Here is *Rainham Lodge*, a handsome brick edifice about three miles north of the church. *South Hall* is situated just above the marshes on the left of the road from Rainham to Wenington, about a mile from the church; and the manor-house of *Bervick* is about two miles north-east of it on the left of the road to Upminster. This mansion has all the visible remains of a large building. The manor-house of *Gerpinus* is about two miles north-east of the church, which is a small, neat, stone edifice, consisting of a nave and two aisles; the walls are remarkably thick, the pillars square and massy, and the arch between the church and chancel is indented, or curiously wreathed. The tower at the west end contains three bells. This church was given by Richard de Lucy the founder, or by Henry II., to the Abbey of Lesnes in Kent.

From Rainham a road leads us through the little village of Southend, by the house called Brittons, into the high road, and proceeding about a mile we arrive at

ROMFORD. The manor of Romford is first mentioned in the year 1299, when it was held of Adam de Cretinge, by Henry de Winchester, a Jew convert. It afterwards passed by marriage to the Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk, then to James Lord Berkeley; and since then to various families.

This place, with Havering and Hornchurch, form what is called the liberty of *Havering Atte Bower*. Romford principally consists of one long street upon the high road, near the middle of which is the market-house and town-hall, which were repaired in 1768 at the expense of the crown; in the latter are holden the quarter sessions for Havering Atte Bower. Here two justices and a high steward sit to try all felonies and trespasses, and here is also a coroner; high and petty constables, clerk of the market, and many other privileges. No justice of the county can act in this liberty, and no inhabitant of the liberty can be called upon to serve on juries, &c. out of the liberty. A new workhouse was erected for the reception and employment of the poor in 1787, which cost 4000*l*; and in 1795, barracks were built for six troops of cavalry. Romford is nearly a mile in length, a post town, and one of the greatest thoroughfares in the county. The market, one of the largest in the county, is held on Wednesdays, the annual fair on the 24th of June; and the number of houses were 594, and the inhabitants 3244, in 1811. Here is also a market on Tuesdays for the sale of hogs, and another on Mondays chiefly for calves.

Much dispute has taken place whether the name is a contraction from Romanford, or whether it was taken from the passage over the little stream in the middle of the town; the first syllable may be derived from the breadth of the brook, having no banks to confine it. "*Rum*" signifies broad, whence *room*, a word now much in use.

Historians and others assert, that the road to Bury and Colchester, this way, is not of long standing; that travellers went to those places by Ongar, whilst Hornchurch through the green-lanes was the way for others who went towards Ingatestone; and the probability of this is urged from the green-lanes being

so much overgrown with grass, since people went through Romford. However, Smart Lethicullier, esq. is by others thought to have shewn that the road went from Old Ford, through that part of Wanstead where a mosaic pavement and other Roman antiquities have been discovered, and proceeded through or near Ilford to Romford (the Roman Ford). The course of the present road, it is argued, is the only proper line, as otherwise several hills or deep valleys must have been crossed either to the north or south of Ilford, previously to the passing of the Roding.

In Romford-street near the turnpike is a new charity-school erected by subscription in 1710, for forty boys, and twenty girls.

In this town is also a chapel under Hornchurch, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Edward the Confessor. It stands nearly in the centre of the town, is a spacious stone building supported by rows of pillars, with a chancel. The steeple is low, and contains five bells; but the ancient chapel erected here in the reign of Edward II. stood a mile nearer to Hornchurch than the present; and the spot still bears the name of the *Old Church*, though no vestiges of it can be seen. The old chapel in the town, being ruinous, was taken down, and the present edifice, twenty-eight feet longer and fourteen broader than the former, erected, the expense being defrayed by composition, between the warden and fellows of New College and the inhabitants. Others say a bull was obtained from Pope Alexander V., about 1407, granting leave to the inhabitants of Romford to bury in the churchyard here, instead of taking their dead to Hornchurch. In a window of the chancel of this chapel is painted the whole length figure of Edward the Confessor, with an inscription renewed in 1707, and a fine old monument with the effigies of two persons, Sir George and Lady Hervey, to whose memory it is erected, kneeling at an

altar with a book before each of them. Behind Sir George are the effigies of five boys kneeling, and behind Lady Bridget those of their six daughters; and over the whole an elegant cornice supported by pillars of the Doric order, with an inscription beneath.

On the north side of the aisle is the monument of Sir Anthony Cooke of Gidea Hall, with the effigies of himself and his lady in kneeling attitudes, and various shields of arms displaying the intermarriages and alliances of that family. On this monument are several inscriptions in Latin, supposed to have been furnished by his daughters, who were among the learned females of that age, and near it is a tablet with the following epitaph, upon the death of the right worshipful Sir Anthony Cooke, knt., who died June 11, 1576.

You learned men, and such as learning love,
 Vouchsafe to read this rude unlearned verse;
 For stones are doombe, and yet, for mannes behove,
 God lends them tongues sometymes for to rehearse
 Such worth of wordes as worthiest wittes may pears;
 Yea stones oftymes, when bloode and bones be rott,
 Do blase the brute which ells might be forgott:
 And in that heap of carved stones doth lye
 A worthy Knight, whose life, in learning shedd,
 Did make his name to mount above the skie.
 With sacred skill unto a King he redd,
 Whose towarde youth his famous praises spredde;
 And he therefore to courtly life was called,
 Who more desyred in study to be stalled.
 Phylosophy had taught his learned mynde
 To stand content with contrye quyet lyfe;
 Wherein he dwelt as one that was assynde
 To guard the same from sundry stormes of stryfe:
 And yet when persecuting rage was ryfe,
 His helping hand did never fail to stay
 His countrie's staffe, but held it up alway.
 No high advance, nor office of availe,
 Could tempte his thoughts to row beyond his reache:
 By broont of bookes he only did assayle

The forte of Fame, wberoto he made his breache.
 With tyre of trewth, whiche God's goode worde dothe weache,
 The wreathe he woore was dewe for his degree;
 He neyther rose by ryche rewarde nor fee;
 And yet although he bare his sayles so lowe,
 The gales of grace did speed his course so faste,
 That in his lyfe he did righte well bestowe
 His children, all before their pryme was paste,
 And linckte them so as they be lyke to laste.
 What should I say, but only this in summe,
Beatus hic qui timet Dominum?
 That only skill, that learninge beares the belle,
 And of that skill I thoughte (poor stone) to treat; ;
 That suche as lyke to use their learninge well,
 Mighte reade theis lynes, and therewith oft repeate
 Howe here on earth his gyfte from God is great,
 Which can employe his learninge to the best;
 So did this Knyghte whiche here with me doth reste.

Morant says, that when the inhabitants of Romford paid their tithes at Christmas, it was customary to treat them with a bull and brawn; and that the head of the boar killed on the occasion was wrestled for: this custom has been discontinued.

The manor of *Steuards*, in Romford Town Ward, became the property of the Quarles family in the year 1588; and in 1592, FRANCIS QUARLES, the celebrated author of the Book of Emblems, was born here. He was educated at Cambridge, and became cup-bearer to the Queen of Bohemia, and afterwards secretary to Archbishop Usher, whom he accompanied to Ireland. During the civil wars, his adherence to the royal cause occasioned him a considerable loss of property: he was also plundered of his books and manuscripts, which is thought to have accelerated his death in the year 1644. Besides the Emblems, he wrote a Comedy, called "The Virgin Queen," and several poems. From the Quarles's the manor has passed through various hands.

ILFORD. This town is situated on the river Roding,

on the high road to Chelmsford : it forms a handsome street, and here are many good houses and some excellent inns. This is a chapelry in Barking parish, and an hospital was founded here by the abbess of Barking, in the reign of King Stephen, for thirteen lepers, a prior, master, &c. The statutes drawn up by Ralph Stratford, bishop of London, for this establishment in 1346, order every leper on his admission to take an oath of chastity, and obedience to the abbess and convent. The site and possessions of the hospital being granted by Queen Elizabeth to Thomas Fanshaw, esq. and his heirs, Thomas Fanshaw, viscount Dromore, in 1668, granted a lease of them to Thomas Allen, gent., for 1000 years. Here are apartments for six paupers, each of whom should receive an annual pension of 2*l.* 5*s.* The present building occupies three sides of a small quadrangle; the apartments of the pensioners are on the east and west sides, and the chapel between them on the south. This appears to have been erected in the fifteenth century. Its length is 100 feet, and its breadth little more than 20. It has certainly undergone various repairs and alterations.

ALDERSBROOK, on the other side of the road, in the parish of Little Ilford, was the seat of the late antiquary Smart Lethieullier, esq., who much improved the grounds, and erected a small hermitage, in which he kept many of the antiquities collected during his travels. This structure has been levelled, and the manor-house was pulled down soon after the manor was sold by Edward Hulse, esq. to the late Sir James Tylnay Long, bart. The site of the mansion was afterwards occupied by a farmhouse. At the north-west corner of *Little Ilford church* is the burial-place of the Lethieullier family, to whom several handsome marbles have been erected in the apartment over it. On that to the memory of the late antiquary is the following inscription.

In Memory of
Smart Lethicullier, esq.

A gentleman of polite literature and elegant taste,
An encourager of art and ingenious artists,
A studious promoter of literary enquiries,
A companion and a friend of learned men;
Industriously versed in the science of antiquity,
And richly possessed of the curious productions of Nature :

But
Who modestly desired no other inscription
On his tomb

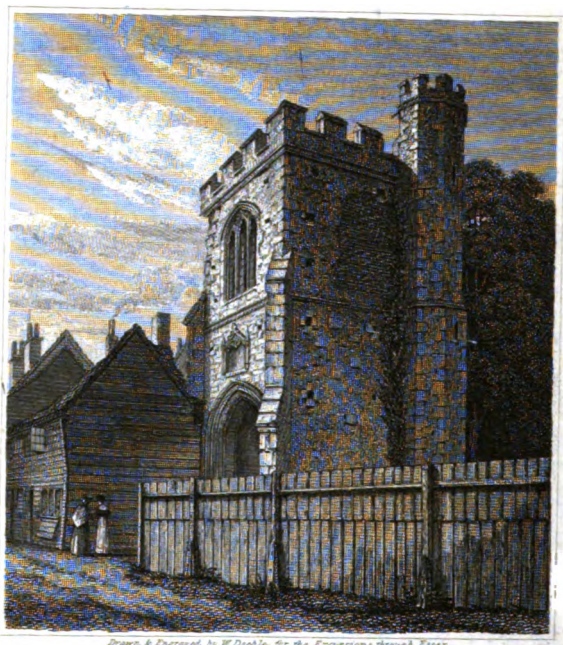
Than what he had made the rule of his life;
To do justly,
To love mercy,

And to walk humbly with his God.

He was born Nov. 3d, 1701,
And died without issue, Aug. 27th, 1760.

In the parishes of Ilford, East and West Ham, Leyton, and Wansted, on the level part of Epping Forest, a great mart is annually held for cattle brought from Wales, Scotland, and the north of England, from the latter end of February till the beginning of May.

BARKING is situated on the river Roding, commonly called Barking Creek, and which, about two miles lower down, runs into the Thames, from whence coals, timber, lime, &c. are brought up in vessels to its quay for the supply of the adjacent country. The town is principally inhabited by fishermen, whose smacks lie at the mouth of the creek, from whence their fish is generally conveyed to Billingsgate. Barking is the nearest market town in Essex to the metropolis. The market is held on Saturdays, and its fair on the 22d of October; the number of houses in the town is 298, and the inhabitants 2411. The parish is large, and so much improved by the lands gained from the Thames and the Roding rivers, that the great and small tithes are computed at above 600*l.* per annum. The town is supposed to have derived its present name from *Burgh-ing*, the fortification in the meadow, some considerable



Drawn & Engraved by W. Doolin for the Excursions through Essex.

The Gate-way
BARKING ABBEY.
ESSEX.

Published by J. & J. Langman & Co. London & Essex.

entrenchments being still visible in the fields adjoining a farm called *Uphall*, about a quarter of a mile north from the town. The form of these works is not regular, but inclining to a square, and they cover a circumference of 1792 yards, inclosing an area of 48 acres, one rood, and 34 perches. On the north, east, and south sides, the trenches are single, but double on that which is parallel to the river Roding. There is also a double trench, and bank, at a short distance from it, with a morass on the south side. The ground is dry and level on the north and east sides; and at the north-west corner there was formerly a fine spring of water, guarded by an inner work, and a high keep of earth.

The history of the celebrated Abbey of Barking is detailed as follows by Lysons, from the manuscript by Mr. Lethieullier.

“BARKING ABBEY, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is said to have been the first convent for women established in this kingdom. It was founded about the year 670, in the reigns of Sebbi and Sighere, Kings of the East Saxons, by St. Erkenwald, bishop of London, in compliance with the earnest desire of his sister Ethelburgh, who was appointed the first abbess. The founder was nearly allied to the Saxon monarchs, being great grandson of Uffa, the first King, and second son of Anna, the seventh King of the East Angles: he was also the first bishop who sat in the see of London after the building of St. Paul's church by King Ethelbert. The monastic writers speak in very high terms of his piety and zeal in the discharge of his episcopal functions; and tell us, that, when he was grown weak through age and infirmities, he was carried about in a litter from place to place throughout his diocese, constantly teaching and instructing the people till his death, which happened about the year 685, whilst he was on a visit to his sister Ethelburgh, at Barking.

After his death, great disputes arose (as we are informed by the monkish annalists) between the nuns of Barking, the convent of Chertsey, and the citizens of London, about the interment of his body, each claiming an exclusive right to the bones of the venerable prelate. Nor was this dispute terminated without the intervention of a miracle, which declared in favour of the Londoners, who having obtained the body, bore it off in triumph: on the road they were stopped at Ilford and Stratford by the floods, upon this occasion the historians record another miracle, by which a safe and easy passage was procured for the corpse of the holy man and his attendants. The bishop was canonized, and frequent miracles were said to be wrought at his tomb. So highly was his memory revered, that, in the reign of Stephen, a magnificent shrine was erected against the east wall of St. Paul's cathedral, into which his bones were translated with great solemnity; and vast sums were expended, from time to time, in adorning it with gold, silver, and precious stones.

“ Ethelburgh, the founder's sister, before-mentioned, was the first abbess: the time of her death is uncertain; but she was buried at Barking, and received the honour of canonization. Her successor was Hildelitha, who had been sent for by the founder out of France, to instruct his sister Ethelburgh in the duties of her new station: she also obtained a place among the Romish saints. After her, several abbesses of the royal blood succeeded: Oswyth, daughter of Edifrith, King of Northumberland; Ethelburgh, wife to Ina, King of the West Saxons, who was canonized; and Cuthburgh, sister of King Ina, who had been a nun at Barking in the time of St. Hildelitha: she died about the middle of the eighth century. Nothing more is known of this monastery till the year 870, when it was burnt to the ground by the Danes, and the nuns

either slain or dispersed. It lay desolate about one hundred years, being within the territories which were ceded by Alfred to Gormund, the Danish chief. About the middle of the tenth century it was rebuilt by King Edgar, as an atonement for his having violated the chastity of Wulfhilda, a beautiful nun at Wilton, whom he appointed abbess: he restored the monastery to its former splendor, and endowed it with large revenues. After Wulfhilda had presided over the convent many years, some dissensions arose between her and the priests of Barking, who referred their cause to Elfrida, the widow of Edgar, and mother of Ethelred, whom they requested to eject Wulfhilda, and assume the government herself; a proposal to which she readily assented. Wulfhilda retired to a religious house which she had founded at Horton, in Devonshire; and the queen putting herself at the head of this monastery, continued to preside over it, as the historians inform us, 20 years; at the end of which term, a violent sickness seizing her at Barking, she repented of the injury she had done to Wulfhilda, and reinstated her in her former situation. Wulfhilda, seven years afterwards, died at London, whither she had retired to avoid the Danish army, then invading England, and was enrolled among the Romish saints, being the fifth abbess who had received the honour of canonization. At the time of the Norman Conquest, Alfgiva, a Saxon lady, who had been appointed by Edward the Confessor, was abbess.

“ The historians, Carte and Brady, relate that William the Conqueror, soon after his arrival in England, retired to Barking Abbey, and there continued till the fortress he had begun in London was completed: hither, they say, whilst preparations were making for his coronation, repaired to him, Edwin, Earl of Mercia, Morcar, Earl of Northumberland, and many others of the nobility and great men of the land,

who swore fealty to him, and were reinstated in their possessions. Others (among whom are Simon Dunelmensis, and Roger Hovedon) affirm, that Berkhamstead was the place of the king's abode; but there are strong circumstances in favour of the former opinion. Berkhamstead Castle was not built till after the manor was given to Earl Morton by the Conqueror; yet, admitting that a mansion might have previously stood there fit for a royal residence, the proximity of Barking to London certainly rendered that place a more convenient station for the new monarch.

"After the death of Alfgiva, Maud, Henry the First's Queen, assumed the government of the convent; and it is not improbable this connexion with Barking induced her the more readily to build the bridge at Bow. Maud, wife of King Stephen, followed the example of her aunt, on the death of Agnes, the abbess, in 1136; but she soon resigned the charge to Adeliza, sister of Paris Fitz-John, a baron of considerable note, who was slain in a battle near Cardigan. During her government, Stephen, with his Queen, and the whole court, were entertained for several days at the abbey. Her successor was Mary, sister to Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, whose appointment is said to have been intended, by Henry II., as an atonement for the injustice he had done her family, who were banished the kingdom as a punishment for the prelate's insolence.

"From the time of Mary à Becket but few remarkable occurrences are connected with the history of this abbey. The most material, as it affected the interests of its inmates, was a great inundation, which happened about the year 1376, and broke down the banks of the Thames at Dagenham. It is first mentioned in a record of the ensuing year, when the convent petitioned that they might be excused from contributing an aid to the king, at the time of a threat-

ened invasion, on account of the expenses they had been at in endeavouring to repair their damages. The plea was allowed; and the same reasons were generally pleaded with success, as an exemption from contributions of a like nature. In 1380, and 1382, the abbess and convent state, that their income was then diminished 400 marks per annum, by inundations, and that they had scarcely sufficient left to maintain them. In 1409, they state, that they had expended 2000*l.* to no purpose, in endeavouring to repair their banks. The next year it was set forth, that the revenues of the convent were sunk so low, that none of the ladies had more than fourteen shillings per annum, for clothes and necessaries. In consequence of these several petitions, they obtained frequent exemptions from taxes and other burthens, writs to impress labourers to work at their banks, and licence to appropriate certain churches to the use of the convent. Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, retired to Barking Abbey after the murder of her husband in 1397, and died there in 1399; having, as some say, professed herself a nun. During the time of the Queen Dowager, Catherine de la Pole, Edmund and Jasper Tudor, her sons by Owen Tudor, were sent to be educated at this abbey, a certain salary being allowed to the abbess for their maintenance.

“ The nuns of Barking were of the Benedictine order. The abbess was appointed by the king till about the year 1200, when, by the interference of the pope, the election was vested in the convent, and confirmed by the royal authority. The abbess of Barking was one of the four who were baronesses in right of their station; for being possessed of thirteen knights' fees and a half, she held her lands of the king by a barony; and, though her sex prevented her from having a seat in parliament, or attending the king in the wars, yet she always furnished her quota of men, and had precedence over the abbesses. In her convent she

always lived in great state; her household consisted of chaplains, an esquire, gentlemen, gentlewomen, yeomen, grooms, a clerk, a yeoman-cook, a groom-cook, a pudding-wife, &c."

From Lyson's *Environs* we learn that "among the Cottonian Manuscripts in the British Museum is one entitled, 'The charge longynge to the office of cellarass of Barking,' in which is fully stated the sums she was to collect, with the nature and quantity of the provisions she was to lay in, and the manner and proportion in which they were to be distributed. Among other things, she was to 'bake with elys on Schere-Thursday,' (the Thursday after Lady-day;) to provide 'a pece of whete and three gallons of milk for frimete on St. Alburgh's (Ethelburgh's) day; three gallons of gude ale for besons; marybones to make white wortys: cripsis and crum-kakes at Shroftyde; conies for the convent at Shroftyde; twelve stubbe-eles, and nine schaft-eles, to bake on Schere-Thursday; one potel tyre for the abbess the same day, and two gallons of red wyne for the convent; half a goose for each of the nuns on the feast of the Assumption, and the same on St. Alburgh's day; for every lady a lyverey of sowse at Martinmas, a whole hog's sowse (consisting of the face, feet, and groin) to serve three ladies. She was to pay to every lady in the convent *9d.* a year for ruschew-silver (money to buy butter); *2d.* for her cripsis and crum-kakes at Shroftyde; *1½d.* a week for ey-silver (egg-money) from Michaelmas to Allhallows day; from that day till Easter *1½d.* a week; and from Easter to Michaelmas *1½d.*' The whole has been printed in Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

"In the Harleian collection, at the British Museum, is an ancient survey of the manor of Barking, without date, and imperfect. In this survey, the services due from the inferior tenants to the abbess and convent are stated at large. One of the tenants, named Robert

Gerard, was, among other services, to gather a full measure of nuts, called a *pybot*, four of which should make a bushel; to go a long journey on foot, once a year, to Colchester, Chelmsford, Ely, or the like distances, on the business of the convent, carrying a pack; and other shorter journeys, such as Brentwood, &c. maintaining himself upon the road. He was to pay a fine for the marriage of his daughter, if she married beyond the limits of the manor, otherwise to make his peace with the abbess as well as he could; and if his daughter was to have a bastard child, he was to make the best terms that he could for the fine called *Kyldwyte*: it appears, also, that he could not sell his ox, fed by himself, without the abbess's permission. Some of the tenants were obliged to watch and guard thieves in the abbess's prison.

“In the year 1452, after several disputes between Catherine de la Pole and Sir John Greening, then vicar, an award was made to the following effect; that instead of a hog, a goose, a cheese, and a lamb, which the vicar had heretofore received of the lady abbess, he and his successors should have three yards of good cloth, two ells broad; provision every day in the convent for himself and his servant, so long as he should not be of a litigious and contentious disposition, he sitting at the chaplain's table, and his servant with the domestics of the convent: but if the said vicar should, without licence of the lady abbess, or her deputy, have any familiarity or discourse with any one or two of the nuns, he should, for the first offence, (after proper admonition) lose his diet for a week; after a second admonition, forfeit a month's diet; and if he should offend a third time, he should be excluded the convent during life, unless restored by the lady abbess's special grace and favour. In all other respects he was to be satisfied with the profits of the vicarage, which were then valued at 27*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* per annum.”

Barking Abbey was surrendered to Henry VIII. in November, 1539, when an annual pension of 200 marks was granted to Dorothy Barley, the last abbess, and various smaller pensions to the nuns, who were then 30 in number. The site of the conventual buildings, with the demesne lands of the abbey, were granted, by Edward VI. to Edward Fynes, Lord Clinton, who the next day conveyed them to Sir Richard Sackville. Since that period they have passed through various families to the widow of the late Joseph Keeling, esq. The manor of Barking, which probably formed part of the original endowment of the abbey, continued in the crown from the dissolution till the year 1628, when Charles I. sold it to Sir Thomas Fanshaw, for the sum of 2000*l.* reserving a fee-farm rent of 160*l.* which is now payable to the Earl of Sandwich. The manor has become the property of Edward Hulse, esq. in right of Mary, his wife, niece to the late Smart Lethieullier, esq. who obtained it by purchase in the year 1754. The whole revenues of the abbey, according to Speed, were valued, on the suppression, at 1084*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.* annually.

The *Abbey church*, and *conventual buildings*, occupied an extensive plot of ground, though hardly any remains are now standing. The site of the former may be seen just without the north wall of the present churchyard. Mr. Lethieullier, by employing persons to dig among the ruins, procured a ground plan of this edifice, from which it appears to have been constructed on the general plan of cathedral churches. The whole length, from east to west, was 170 feet; the length of the choir, 60 feet; the length of the transept, 150 feet; the breadth of the nave and side aisles, 44 feet; the breadth of the transept, 28 feet; the diameter of the base of the columns that supported the roof was eight feet and a half. Among the ruins, an ancient fibula and a gold ring have been found; both of

which (the former from its legends, the latter from the salutation of the Virgin Mary, engraven on it) seem to have belonged to some of the inmates of the convent.

At the entrance of Barking churchyard is an ancient square embattled gateway, with octagonal turrets, also embattled, rising from the ground on each side. The entrance arch is pointed; above it is a niche, with a canopy and pinnacles. The apartment over the entrance is, in an old record, named, "The chapel of the Holy Rood lofte atte-gate, edified to the honour of Almighty God, and of the Holy Rood." Against the wall in this chapel is a representation of the Holy Rood, or crucifixion, in alto-relievo. This structure is generally called *Fire-Bell-Gate*, from its anciently containing a bell, which Mr. Lysons imagines to have been used as a curfew-bell.

The parochial church, dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of a nave, a chancel, a south aisle, two north aisles, running parallel to each other the whole length of the building; and a square embattled tower, standing at the west end. Against the south wall of the chancel is a monument to the memory of Sir Charles Montagu, brother of the first Earl of Manchester, who died in 1625, at the age of 61. The figure of Sir Charles is represented sitting in a tent, with his head reclined upon a desk, on which are his helmet and gauntlets: the entrance of the tent is guarded by sentinels, and near it stands a page with his horse. Various other monuments, and many funeral inscriptions, are contained in this structure; and near the steps of a small chapel, at the east end of the north aisle, is a marble slab, with a mutilated epitaph, supposed, by Mr. Lethieullier, to have been inscribed in memory of Mauritius, who was made bishop of London in the year 1087. Mr. Lysons admits it to be of that age, but imagines it to have commemorated the inter-

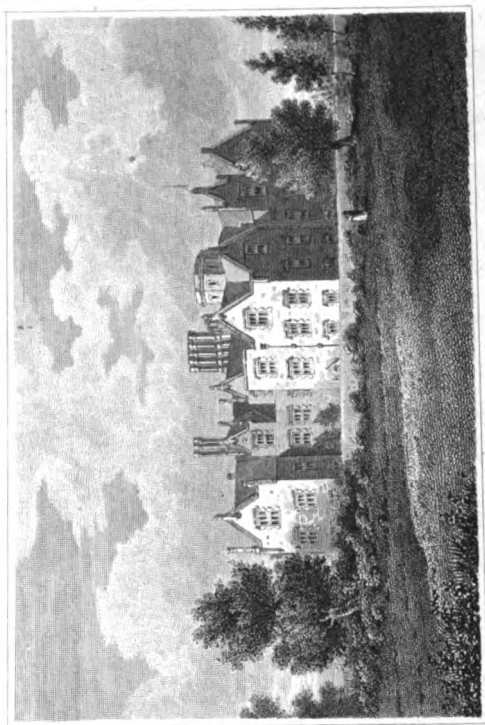
ment of some other person, who was buried during the bishop's life. The remains of the inscription are as follows :

.... AURICII EPI LONDONENSIS ALFGIVE ABBE DE

Three chantries were founded here previous to the dissolution ; but they do not appear to have any particular endowments. The church itself was appropriated to the abbey, and the vicar was dieted by the lady abbess.

A spacious and convenient workhouse was built at Barking in 1787, under the powers of an act of parliament obtained the preceding year : within this are apartments appropriated to the education of poor children. The above act contains some regulations respecting the wharf at Barking Creek, on the river Roding, which was made navigable to Ilford about the year 1730. Near the wharf is a very large flour mill that formerly belonged to Barking Abbey. The river flows in two branches on the west side of the town. The fishing trade is carried on to a very considerable extent, and furnishes employment for many of the inhabitants.

The market-house was built by Queen Elizabeth ; and, together with the market-place, was granted, by Charles I. in 1616, to Samuel and John Jones, who the same year conveyed them to Thomas Fanshaw and others. In 1679, Sir Thomas Fanshaw gave the profits of the market, and of an annual fair, to the poor of the parish ; but the tolls are now of little value, being let, since the decline of the market, for 10*l.* per annum. The parish of Barking is divided into four wards, each of which has distinct officers. Several Saxon coins, among which was one of King Burgred, are mentioned by Mr. Lysons to have been found towards the south-east part of the town, in the early part of the last century. To this place, William the



Engr'd by J. Hancock, from a Sketch by W. Lindley for the Engraving through Flint.

EASTBURY HOUSE,
near *Barking*
ESSEX.

As it appears by the engraving in the original sketch.

Conqueror retired some time after his coronation, till he had completed the strong holds in the city of London, raised to check the instability and power of the proud citizens; and hither it was that the two great Earls of Mercia and Northumberland came and swore fealty to him.

Several hundred acres of land in Barking, and the adjoining parishes of Little Ilford, East Ham, Leyton, and Wansted, are appropriated to the growth of potatoes for the supply of the London markets. The profits are considerable, as the produce, from the mode of cultivation, and the quality of the soil, is abundant. The general practice, near Ilford, is to select the smallest potatoes of the preceding year's growth, or to cut the large ones into pieces, leaving two or three eyes in each; these are planted regularly in the spring, and in October the potatoes are generally taken up, and housed for winter consumption.

Eastbury House, about one mile south-east from Barking, is an ancient and very spacious brick edifice, having octangular towers, and curiously ornamented chimneys: some of the rooms are painted in fresco. This mansion is associated by tradition with the gunpowder-plot: one account asserting that the conspirators held their meetings here; and another, that it was the residence of Lord Monteagle when he received the letter that led to the discovery. Previous to the dissolution, the manor of Eastbury was parcel of the possession of Barking Abbey; it now belongs to the Sterry family.

Turning from Barking towards the high road, we pass East and West Ham.

EAST HAM, as the name imports, is the most easterly of the two. The church here, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, was given by John de Lancaster to the abbey at Stratford Langthorne. This structure is small, but the walls on each side the chancel are of

an extraordinary thickness; and arches of indented wreath-work on the north and south make it appear as if there had been two aisles. It at present consists of a nave and two chancels. The upper is semi-circular at the west end, and has narrow pointed windows. On the south wall of the lower chancel are several Saxon arches with zig-zag ornaments. Behind the communion table is a handsome monument of black and white marble, protected by iron palisadoes, to the memory of Edward Nevill, Lord Latimer, supposed to have been the seventh Earl of Westmoreland of that family: the effigies represent the Earl and his Lady, Jane, Countess of Westmoreland, in kneeling attitudes. This tomb consists of the two effigies, large as life, with a pedestal between them, upon which are placed two books, and before this lies an helmet, signifying that the deceased had been a warrior. In the front of the tomb seven children also appear in kneeling attitudes, and behind the two principal figures, the inscription is very long, and in a kind of metre, quite in the homely phrase of the early part of the reign of James I.

Dr. Stukeley, the celebrated antiquary, is buried in this churchyard; he died in March 1765. It is said, the spot for his interment was chosen by himself, during a visit to the Rev. Mr. Sims, when the latter was vicar of this parish: at the Doctor's request, no monument was erected, nor any distinction, excepting that of the turf being laid smoothly over his grave. From this churchyard, there is a good view into Kent.

The charitable benefactions here left by the Latimer family and others are considerable. The mansion house of East Ham Burnels, which stands near the London road, has been in the families of Burnel, Lovel, Handlo, Hungerford, Beckwith, Hervey, Mildmay, Edwards, Gore, and Henniker.

The tenants of the manor of East Ham are obliged

to treat and entertain those of the other manors of West Ham, West Ham Burnels, and Plaiz. The origin of this custom is said to be this: when the lord of these manors was taken prisoner in France, and sent to his tenants for relief, the tenants of all the others complied, those only of East Ham refusing, so that, to punish them for their disobedience, he laid this burden upon them. This, whether correct or otherwise, is the tradition.

The hamlet of Green-street is about a mile north-west of the church. A part of Kent, in the parish of Woolwich, lies on this side of the river, and divides this parish from the Thames.

The ancient manor-house here, with a brick tower adjoining, according to tradition, was for some time the place of confinement for Anna Boleyn; but this tale is rejected, because the tower is of more modern date. The mansion supposed to have been the residence of the Nevilles afterwards belonged to Sir Francis Holcroft, and still later to the Gerrards. It has since passed through various families. The spring here, called Miller's Well, is extremely good, has never been known to be frozen, or to vary in its height either in summer or winter.

WEST HAM. The manors of East and West Ham, Wood Grange and Plaiz, at the time of the Survey, belonged to Robert Gernon. The manor of West Ham was part of the dowry of Catherine of Portugal, Queen of King Charles II.; but before her decease, in the year 1705, King William had granted a 99 years lease of it to the Hon. George Booth, at a reserved rent, which was afterwards remitted.

West Ham had formerly a market, from a charter granted to Richard de Montfichet in 1253, whose ancestor, William de Montfichet, had built an abbey at Stratford Langthorne in this parish in 1135, and endowed it with West Ham and other estates. On the

dissolution it of course became the property of the crown ; but, as before observed, has since been divided and passed through many families. The abbey was founded for Cistercian monks, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and all Saints. This house, according to Leland, " first sett among the low marishes, was after with sore fludes defacyd, and removed to a cell or graunge longynge to it, caulld Burgestede in Estsex, a mile or more from Billerica. Thes monks remained at Burgestede untyl entrete was made that they might have sum helpe otherwyse. Then one of the Richards, Kings of England, toke the ground and abbay of Stratford into his protection, and re-edifyinge it, brought the foresaide monks agayne to Stratford, where amonge the marshes they re-inhabityd."

In the year 1307 the abbot of Stratford Langthorne was summoned to parliament : and in 1335, John de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, High Constable of England, was buried in the abbey. On the dissolution its annual revenues were valued at 65*l.* 3*s.* 14*d.* and its possessions were granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Peter Mewtes, or Mautes, who had been ambassador to the court of France. Henry Meautes, esq. a descendant of Sir Peter, alienated the site of the abbey with the abbey mills, and 240 acres of land, to Sir John Nulls in the year 1633. Since that period, it has been possessed by different families. Margaret, the unfortunate Countess of Salisbury, whom Henry VIII. caused to be beheaded in her old age on a charge of treason, appears to have resided within the precincts of the abbey about the period of its dissolution. The chief remains of the monastic buildings, now standing, are a brick gateway and an ornamented arch, which appear to have been the entrance to the chapel. " The foundations of the convent," Mr. Lysons observes, " were dug up and removed by the present proprietor ; in doing which, no antiquities worthy of

note were found, except a small onyx seal, with the impress of a griffin set in silver, with the following legend, '*Nuncio vobis gaudium et salutem,*' perhaps the priory seal of one of the abbots." The site of the buildings was moated, and contained about sixteen acres: the abbey stood about three furlongs south-west from the present church. This edifice is spacious, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles to both: at the west end is a square tower, seventy-four feet in height. Several persons of eminence have been buried in the interior, where there are several handsome monuments. George Edwards, esq. F. R. S. interred in this churchyard, was born at Stratford Langthorne, and became celebrated for his acquaintance with natural history, particularly that of birds: besides various papers in the Philosophical Transactions, he published seven quarto volumes on subjects in natural history, more than 600 of which had never been described before. He died in the year 1773 at the age of 81.

Adjoining to the Adam and Eve tea-gardens is one of the stone arches of the abbey, where the ground has been much raised, and in the garden was a stone coffin dug up in 1770. Mr. Holbrook, the proprietor of the field adjoining this house, after having built walls with some of the stones dug up, sold large quantities of them to considerable advantage. A stable in the same field had formerly been used as a chapel. The demesne belonging to this abbey in the parish of West Ham included 1500 acres, and they had manors in other counties. This abbey was bound to maintain the bridge at Bow.

Numerous benefactions have been appropriated to charitable purposes in this parish. In 1723 a charity school was instituted for ten boys; but the endowments having been greatly increased by bequests from different persons, forty boys and twenty girls are now educated and clothed, and on leaving the

school receive five pounds each as an apprentice fee : the expenses are defrayed with the interest of the capital, aided by voluntary gifts and collections made at an annual charity sermon. A school for clothing and educating forty poor girls has also been established in this parish, under the injunctions of a will, dated 1761, of Mrs. Sarah Bonnell, who left 3000*l.* in various stocks for these purposes. West Ham parish is divided into three wards, bearing the appellations of Church-street, Stratford Langthorne, and Plaistow.

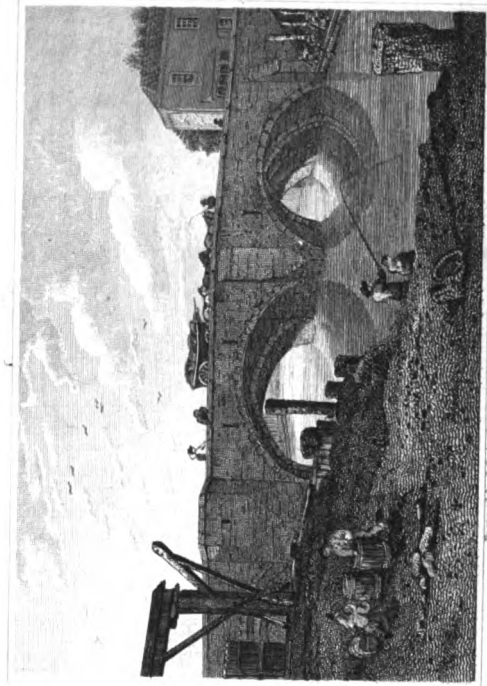
The West Ham water-works, built on the river Lea, are worked by a steam and a water-engine ; and supply the villages of Stratford Langthorne, Bromley, Bow, Stepney, Bethnal Green, and the lower part of White-chapel.

We now join the road just before we arrive at Stratford, at which place our present excursion ends.

PLAISTOW is a village in the parish of West Ham, and lies south of the church. It gives the name of Plaistow Levels to the tract of low land between the mouth of the river Lea and Ham Creek, extending to the banks of the Thames.

UPTON is another village in the parish of West Ham. Here is *Upton House*.

STRATFORD, properly so called, is the last village in Essex, being divided from Middlesex by Bow Bridge. It is three miles and a half from London. It has greatly increased of late years in houses and inhabitants, every vacancy being in a manner filled up, with the addition of two little hamlets, as they may be called, on the forest side of the town ; namely, *Maryland Point* and the *Gravel Pits*, one facing the road to Woodford and Epping, and the other that of Ilford. The nearer part of Stratford has also been joined to Bow in spite of rivers, canals, and marshy grounds, and the same increase is now observable about West Ham, Plaistow, Upton, &c.



Engraved by T. Smith, from a sketch by W. Smith for the Antiquary, 1841.

THE ANCIENT BRIDGE, BOW. ESSEX.

Published by T. Smith, 1841.

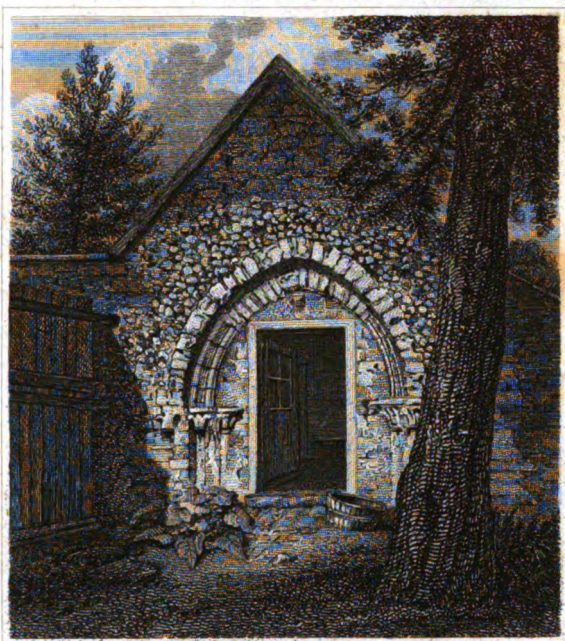
The celebrated Bow Bridge crosses the river Lea near the village of Stratford, about two miles to the east of London, on the great Essex road. Stow, Leland, and other writers concur in ascribing the first erection of this bridge to Maud, or Matilda, the Queen of Henry I. ; as well as in the derivation of its name of *Bow*, or arched bridge, which it is said to have received from its being the first arched stone bridge erected in this country. The particulars are thus related by Stow.

“ This Matilda, when she saw the forde to be dangerous for them that travelled by the old forde over the river of Lue (for she herself had been well washed in the water) caused two stone bridges to be builded, of the which, one was situated over Lue, at the head of the towne of Stratford, now called Bow, because the bridge was arched like a bow ; a rare piece of worke ; for before that time, the like had never been seen in England. The other over the little brooke commonly called Chavelse Bridge. She made the king’s highway of gravel between the two bridges ; and gave certain manors to the abbess of Berking, and a mill, commonly called the Wiggon, or Weggen Mill, for the repairing of the bridges and the highway.” After Montfichet had founded the abbey of Stratford in the marshes, the abbot purchased the mill and manors, and covenanted to repair the bridges and way, till at length he laid the charge upon one Hugh Pratt who lived near, allowing him certain loaves of bread daily ; with these and what the latter collected from passengers by way of alms, he kept the bridges in repair. In this duty he was succeeded by his son William, who, by the assistance of Robert Passelew, the chief justice in the time of Henry III. obtained these tolls : viz. of every cart carrying corn, wood, coal, &c. one penny ; of every one carrying *tasel*, twopence ; and of one carrying a dead Jew, eightpence ! He also put up a bar

with locks on Lockebreggs ; but Philip Basset and the abbot of Waltham having broke the bar rather than pay toll, the bridges and causeway remained unrepaired. After this, Eleanor, Queen of Henry III., caused them to be mended at her own charge by William the keeper of her own chapel ; they were afterwards kept in repair by William de Carleton, till a new agreement between the abbess of Barking and the abbot of West Ham was made for that purpose.

In the seventeenth century the tenants of the abbey lands seemed very unwilling to fulfil their agreement ; for in 1691, an information was laid in the King's Bench against Buckridge and others for not repairing a highway in their tenure between Stratford and Bow. It was tried at the bar by an Essex jury. The evidence for the king was, that Maud, the Queen of Henry I., built this bridge, &c. ; that at the dissolution, the Stratford abbey lands being vested in the crown, were granted to Sir Peter Mewtis, who held them charged for the repairing of this highway ; and from him by several mesne assignments they came to the defendants : these facts being proved, the possessors of the abbey lands were ordered to abide by the tenure.

The many necessary reparations Bow Bridge has undergone in a course of centuries, make it impossible to say what part of the original structure is at this time remaining. The present bridge consists of three arches, and bears evident marks of antiquity. By the cut made from the river Lea over the meadows and low grounds about forty years ago, several miles were saved in the course of the navigation to Ware in Hertfordshire.



Engraved by J. Long from a drawing by W. Dawkins for the Society of the Antiquaries.

Remains of the
ABBAY AT STRATFORD LE BOW.
ESSEX.

Not to scale. See also the plan of the Abbey.

EXCURSION III.

From Chelmsford through Clip Elm, the Lordship, Oxney Green, Cook's Mill Green, Norton Heath, High Ongar, Boddington Mill, Tyler's Green, Weald Gullet, Epping, Loughton Green, Woodford Wells, Woodford, Snarbrook, and Whips Cross, to Lea Bridge.

WE commence our present excursion by passing Clip Elm and the Lordship to the right, whence proceeding to Edney Green, *More Hall* is about half a mile to our right. *Roxwell* is about a mile farther in the same direction, and is a chapelry or hamlet belonging to Writtle. *Boyton Hall* has been distinguished by the names of Boyton Cross and Boyton Magna. It is supposed, as there was formerly a great thoroughfare through this manor, that a cross was put up here.

The manor-house of *Skreens* stands on the left side of the road from Roxwell to Shellow. This large, handsome, modern building was erected by Thomas Bramstone, esq. The park and gardens were much improved by Thomas Berney Bramstone, esq.

Tye Hall is a good mansion moated round, and is situated at some distance from the road on the left between Roxwell and Skreens.

Mountney's Manor has a large mansion on the left side of the road from Boyton Cross to Margaret Rothling, and about half a mile from Newland Hall, which seems formerly to have been a very considerable seat. The manor-house of Dukes stands at the upper end of *Roxwell-street*, on the right of the road from Roxwell church to Skreens.

Newland Hall is a manor that was formerly a villa of itself, and is exempt from the payment of tithe. It belonged before the Conquest to King Harold; and in the reign of Henry VIII. was one of that monarch's places of retirement in this county for licentious purposes. On the left of the road from Boyton Cross to Margaret Roding is a large venerable old mansion, and behind it a fine piece of water; and formerly between this and the house there was a chapel. A considerable family, in the year 1210, were in possession of this manor, and took their name from it. The church is a good building of stone, with a wooden turret at the west end, and contains three bells; the inside is very neat, and contains some excellent monumental inscriptions, particularly upon the Bramstones family.

SHELLOW BOWELS lies to the west of Roxwell, and contains but few houses. The name in old records is written variously to distinguish it from Shelly, near Ongar, and has also had an additional name almost ever since the Conquest, as Boels Jocelyn, Torrell, &c. from the different families who have been the successive owners. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and Paul, being ruinous, was rebuilt in the year 1754 by a brief and the assistance of the neighbouring gentry, particularly Thomas Branston, esq. It is a small, neat, brick edifice, and a cupola at the west end contains one bell.

BERNERS RODING. This place, commonly called Bernish Roding, is about a mile north of Shellow Bowels, and is the most southern of the six villages bearing the name of Roding. The only manor here is *Berners Hall*, and the manor-house is a little south of the church. The Berners family held this estate from the time of the Survey till 1388, when Sir James Berners was impeached as one of the evil counsellors of Richard, and was on that account imprisoned and

beheaded. The church here is small, and has a wooden turret and one bell.

Returning to the road we notice Willingale Dou and Willingale Spain.

WILLINGALE SPAIN derives its name from the ancient family of De Ispania, who owned *Spain's Hall* in Great Yeldam, and in Finchingfield. Here are two manors, Willingale Spain and Mynchens. The mansion of the first is about half a mile east of the church upon the right on the road to Ingatestone. At the survey this manor belonged to Alan Fergant, and his under tenant, Hervey de Ispania. The manor-house of

Mynchens is about a mile south of the church. The estate originally belonged to the Scroop family; but was afterwards in the possession of the monastery of Clerkenwell. At the suppression it was given to Sir Richard Rich. The church is small, and stands in the same churchyard with that of Willingale Dou. The altar-piece was the gift of William Brocket, esq. In a small wooden belfry are two bells. In the chancel against the south wall is a small monument constructed of vellum, framed with wood, enclosed within a wooden door, on the exterior of which is painted the arms of the Bewsies. Opening of this the spectator is presented with an inscription on vellum, giving an account of the lives and deaths of the children of Edward Bewsey, D. D. and Jane his wife. The doctor was rector of the parish, and died in 1642.

Torells Hall is about three-quarters of a mile north of the church. This estate gave name to the Torell family, who are the most ancient owners of it upon record since the general survey.

The church of Willingale Dou consists of a nave and chancel tiled. At the west end is a square tower, and from the churchyard a pleasant prospect all over the Rodings. The church contains several monumental

inscriptions to the memory of the Wisemans, Coles, Salters, &c.

Warden's Hall, about half a mile south from the church, is a large, neat, brick edifice, with offices, a garden, and fish-ponds. The name of this seat is supposed to have been a corruption from Wanton, a family that enjoyed it about the year 1349. About 1634, having passed to Robert Cole, esq. and from him to Sir John Salter, kat. and alderman of London, the latter rebuilt the manor-house of Warden Hall, and much improved the roads about it. He was also a benefactor to the churches of Willingale, having built a neat and spacious gallery in each. This estate afterwards passed by the marriage of his daughter to William Mills, esq.

We now join the road at Norton Heath, where we observe the seat of John Searle, esq. called Torells Reddings.

NORTON MANDEVILLE is at a short distance to the right of the road, and is supposed to have derived its name from its situation with respect to Ongar: the addition of Mandeville was from Ralph Mandeville, and to distinguish it from Cold Norton in Dengey hundred. The church is small, and without monument or inscription.

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